

SUNDARAKAN UDAM

IN NAIL ART



S. RAMAKRISHNA RAO

SUNDARA KANDAM IN-NAIL-ART



VENNELA PUBLICATIONS.

**Balacheruvu Road,
Gajuwaka,
VISAKHAPATNAM-530026.**

A WORD WITH YOU

One day as I have lost myself in a deep meditation, I received an order from the Lord Hanuman to depict "Sundarakanda" in "NAIL ART". I had no source of guidance no Photos whatsoever to look at and draw inspiration. So, I was rather in wilderness as to how I would achieve this unsurmountable task set by the Lord, But my inspiration came from the Lord Himself Who ordered me and set the target. So the 92 pieces of Art drawn by my left hand finger nails were achieved. The credit what so ever goes to Him and the defects are mine.

At every stage I have been receiving spontaneous co-operation from very many people. I thank them all, and Pray God to bestow 'His' blessings on them. The text in English is rendered by Shri Pullabhatla Sanyasi Rao, the photographs for may Nail Paintings were taken most scrupulously by Shri S. Appa Rao and the preface kindly rendered by no less a person than Shri Sanjivadev. To thank them, I can not darg my tongue into expression. If I don't thank Sri P. Venugopala Rao who has been of great help, I will be failing in my duty. My thanks are also due to the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams for their financial assistance in bringing this book to light. I thank also the Castro Printers, Who spared no efforts to shape this baok.

Yours in service
S. Ramakrishna Rao.

“THIS BOOK IS PUBLISHED WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
OF TIRUMALA TIRUPATHI DEVASTHANAMS UNDER THEIR SCHEME
AID TO PUBLISH RELIGIOUS BOOKS.”

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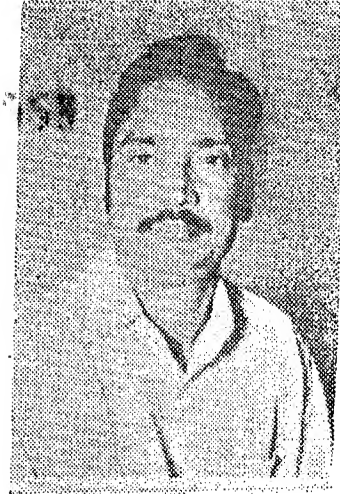
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Nail-painting is one of the branches of pictorial art which would be done with one's own nail of the finger without any brushes and colours. The present artist has done the same with the nail of his left hand's fingers. His delineation of the subject is very deft and sensitive. His is a live line with lovely rhythms of curves and straight ensemble. The composition of the figures and landscape is exquisite. Treatment of the waves of the ocean over which Hanuman flies is both rhythmic and dynamic.

Sri Rao's depiction of Lanka, its buildings and forests are very fascinating in form and presentation. The delineation of trees in the Ashokavana is very pleasant and it is the same with the figure studies present there. Sri Rao has never neglected the realistic representation as well as the idealistic imagination in these nail-paintings.



Guru



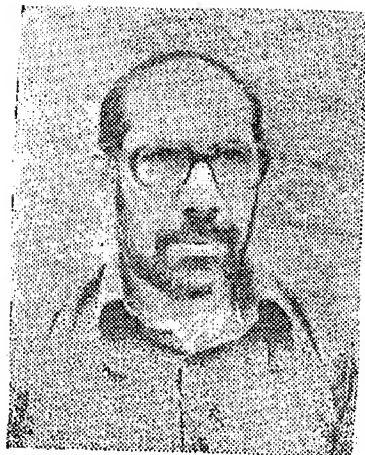
Writer:

Sri Pullabhatla Sanyasi Rao.

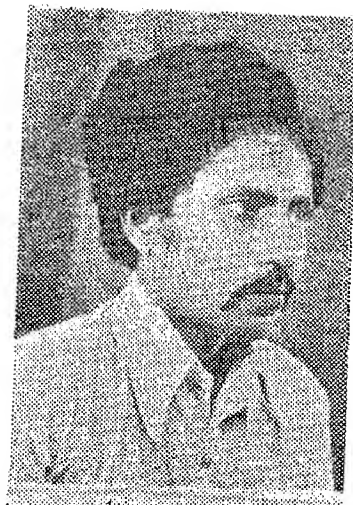
PREFACE

Word and picture have been the main media of human expression as well as communication. Words belong to language whereas pictures belong to form. In the world there are numerous languages and thus one's language cannot be understood by a person belonging to another language. But it is quite different in the case of the pictures which are universal and thus can be understood by all the people of the world. Hence the art of forms is universal.

The present volume contains 92 nail paintings illustrating the Sundarakanda of the celebrated Indian epic Ramayana. The artist of these nail-paintings is an ardent devotee of Hanuman, one of the significant characters of Ramayana. The Sundarakanda in Ramayana is full of the heroic activities of Hanuman and that is why our artist Sri Sistla Ramakrishna Rao has chosen to depict especially the Sundarakanda.



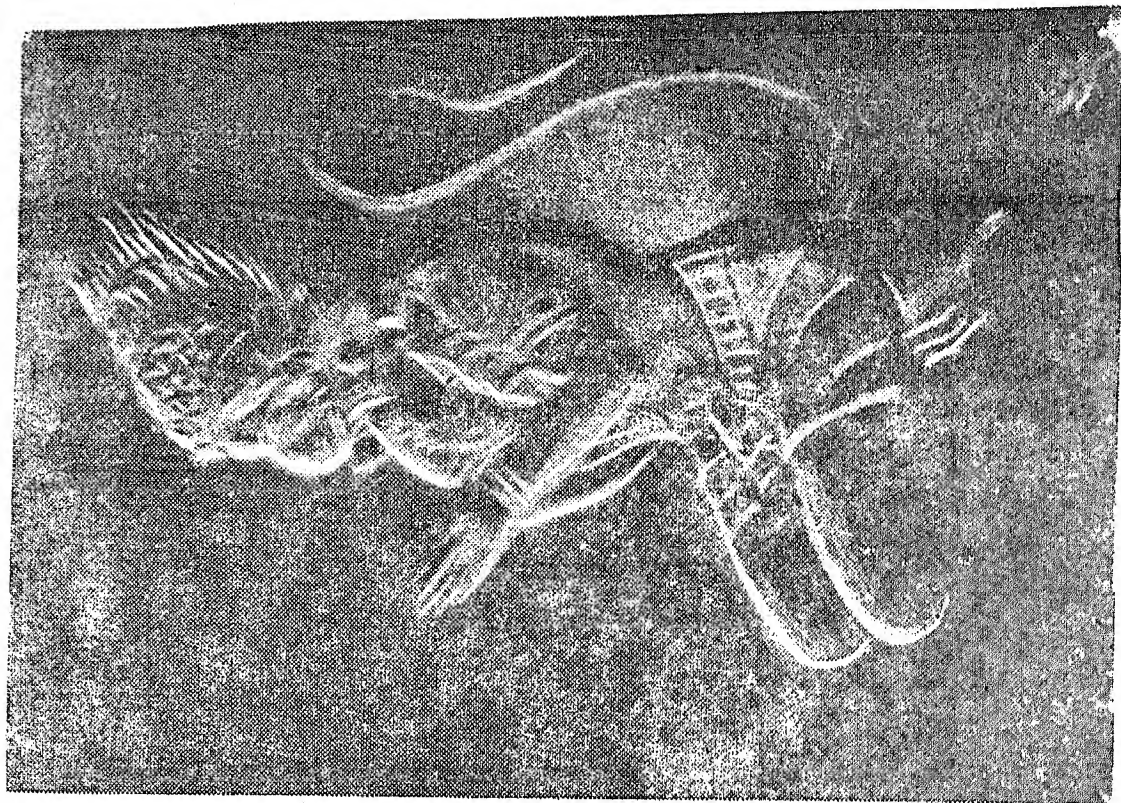
NAIL-ARTIST
S. Rama Krishna Rao.



Photography
S. Appa Rao.

Each artist has his own vision of his own chosen deity and thus Sri Rao too has got his own vision of the same. Idealisation of the real form imports some fascinating atmosphere around the visual objects and figures in the pictures. One's own vision of the abstract finds its concrete form in these nail-paintings.

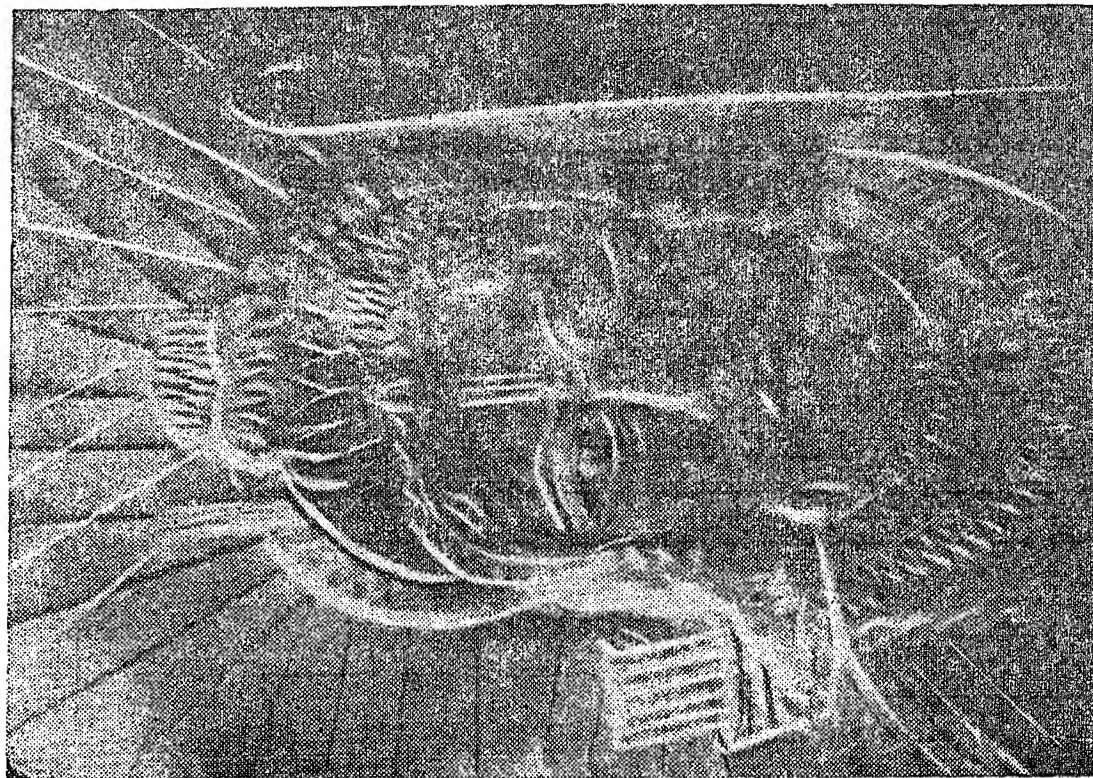
Sri Rao's mind has expressed itself through the nail of his left hand. We notice in this volume the pictures of diverse situations created by Hanuman in Lanka the kingdom of Ravana. The physical body of Hanuman is an embodiment of vigour, Valour, dynamism etc., and this magnanimity has appeared in its full bloom in these nail-masterpieces done by the present artist.



In one of these nail-paintings Rama's wife Sita sits, in exile, in the Ashoka-vana under the languorous Ashoka tree which appears to share the maloncholy of Sita; she is profoundly lost in reverie recalling her past spent in the loving company of Rama in the enchanting moods of Dandakaranya in the beautiful changing seasons. Her grief reflects in every object visible both in the distance and vicinity.

In another picture both Sita and Hanuman are seen in conversation. The little figure of Sita is seated under the Ashoka tree and Hanuman stands there in a huge form; some tall Asoka trees majestically stand beyond them. The contrast between the masculine vigour and feminine subtlety has been well brought out in this pictorial study.

MARUTHI



Not only the trees and figure - studies are well done but also the architectural beauties of Lanka have been nicely produced in these pictures. One wonders how a tiny nail of a finger could achieve such pictorial phenomena! One requires concrete imagination as well as technical consummation in order to produce such magnificent effects.

In Sri Rao's nail-paintings we find the trends of the orient and occident. It is a veritable synthesis of the artistic methods of East and West. In some of the views depicted in this volume the presence of both Oriental perspective and the Occidental perspective is visible. In the Oriental method the areal perspective is used while in the Occidental one the linear perspective. In the Oriental perspective the object in the distance are shown as existing one upon another whereas in Occidental perspective the object in the foreground is depicted as bigger than the one in the back-ground.

This volume is full of the pictorial charm in its variety of lines and forms, rhythms and movements, expressions of human emotions both gross and subtle. Every emotion with ease assume a visual form, especially in the absence of colour. Plain line done by nail

SRI RAMA

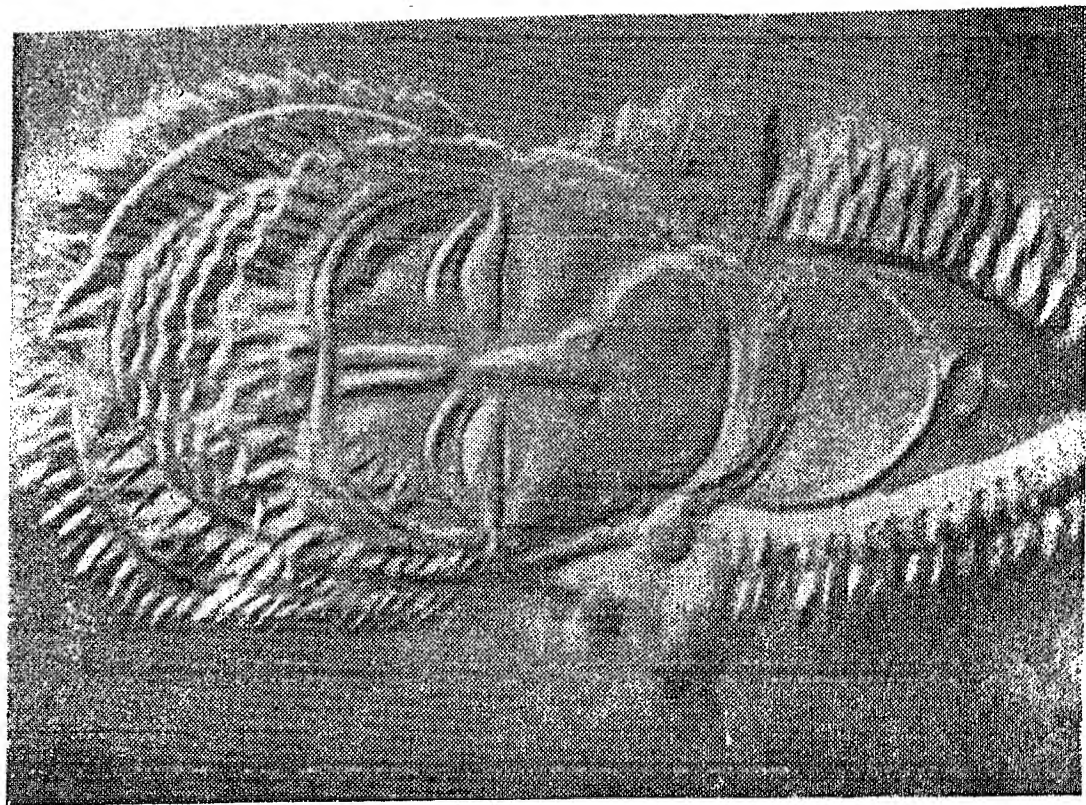


without colour would hardly please the spectators. Yet, Sri Rao's works, even in the absence of colour, are able to delight the eye and the heart alike. For this achievement greater talents of pictorial art are required and no doubt, such talents are found in Sri Ramakrishna Rao.

Sri Rao's magnanimity lies in powerful perception, in adequate conception and deft execution. Even the loveliest conception fails to manifest itself in a visual entity if the execution fails to be deft. So, the conception and dexterity should go like parallel lines for exquisite results in a work of art, especially done in the absence of colour.

The present artist has accomplished this work illustrating a religious theme. We expect with immense delight from his hand such exquisite work illustrating any secular theme. In this cosmic creation religion alone is not sacred but also the secular is sacred. Everyday activities of human life in its diverse aspects would be interesting in the nail-paintings. The hopes and despairs, the successes and failures, the union and separation of lovers, the toiling labourer drenched in perspiration, the grief of a mother whose only-son lies on the death-bed require to get expressed in Sri Rao's nail-paintings.

SITA DEVI

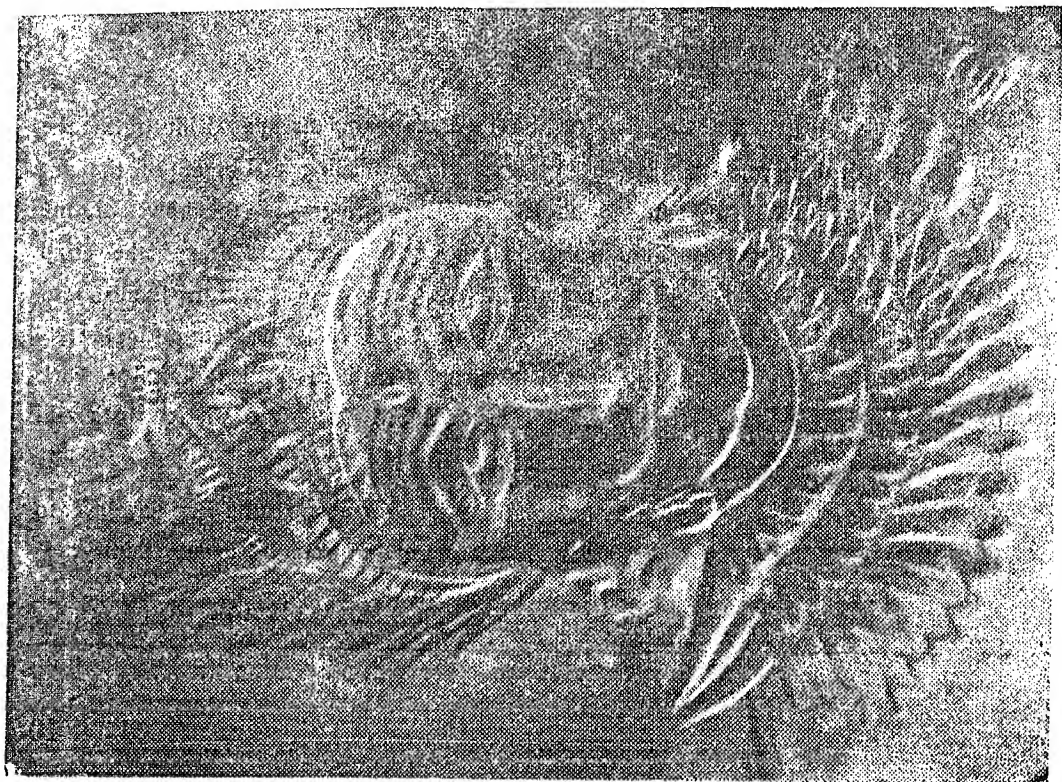


The text in Telugu written by Sri Rambhatla Laxminarayana Shastri illustrating the nail paintings is worth-reading, for it is written with depth of feeling and breath of thought and proper diction. In fact, Sri Ramakrishna Rao's nail-paintings are themselves the pictorial illustrations of the text of Sundarakanda and again Sri Shastri's text is the verbal illustration of Sri Rao's pictorial works! Sri Pullabhatla Sanyasi Rao's text in English also is an additional asset enhancing the charm of this volume. He has written in simple style graspable even to the children. There is an invisible inspiration behind this admirable work and that invisible inspiration is a benign person by name S. Appa Rao whose artistic zeal knows no bounds

Creative endeavours of such talented creators like Sri Ramakrishna Rao have ever to be appreciated, patronised and propagated for the advancement of culture in our country.

SANJIVADEV.

HANUMAN



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

How strong and Powerful the tips of finger nails could be! - When they are blessed could be seen in this book! A heart that overflowed with devotion a mind that is super-saturated with the Presence of God, only that can achieve this. It is beyond any shadow of doubt, that this is not entirely the work of a human being. We find every where an element of God, the presence is so striking as we go on and on.

I, had the fortune of knowing Sri S. Rama Krishna Rao intimately for more than a decade now. He is a con-noisseur in its time sense and a servant of God rather than a devotee. These Paintings are drawn by God in the disguise of his finger nails. Truly the art is on his finger tips! What more can I, a lay man say more about it, than to assure the readers that in due course the Lord Hauuman will charge the nails of SRK with more and more devotional art that lives so long as humanity exists.

Madras

29-8-81

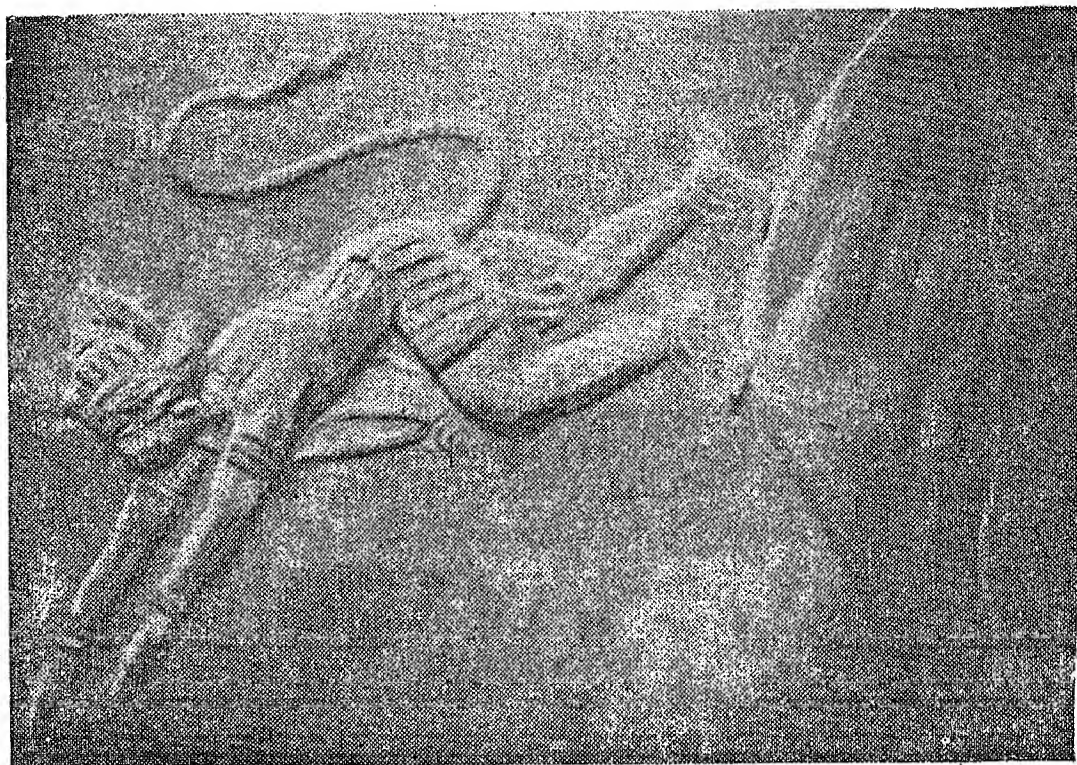
Venugopalo Rao Pappu

M.A.(Skt), M.A.(Tel), B.Sc., B.Ed., DBM.

Regional officer, American Institute of Indian Studies

Madras

RAVANA - THE DEMON KING

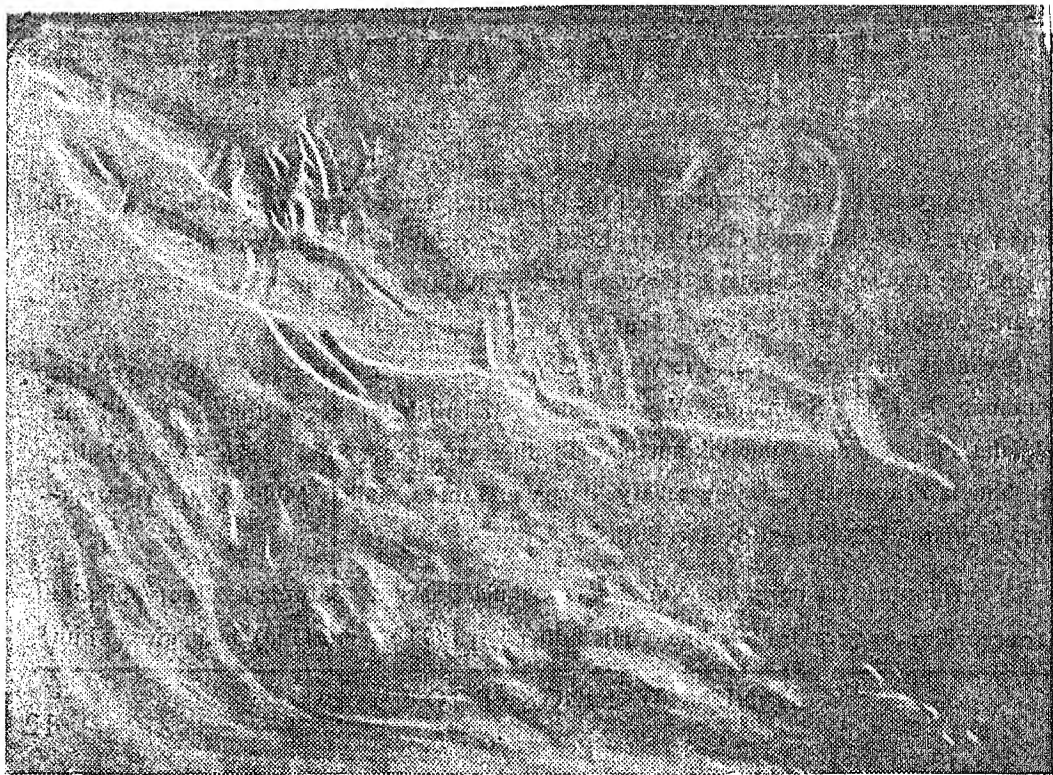


SUNDARA KANDAMU

Anjaneya is the incarnation of the Almighty, Lord Sankara. It was through Lord Vayu (air - The wind God) that Lord Sankara's breed entered the womb of Anjana the mother of Anjaneya, through her ear. Anjana was a monkey Her husband Kesari, was the king of monkeys. That is why Anjaneya is called Vayu - putra or Marutatmaza meaning son of The Wind God. The other names of Anjaneya are Hanuman, Anjana Soonuhu, Vayuputraha, Mahabalaha, Ramesthaha, Phalghuna Sakhaha, Pingakshaha, Amitavikramaha, Udadhikramanaha, Sita Soka Vinasakaha, Lakshmana Pranadataha, Dasagreevasya darpaha, Vanara Yudha Mukhyaha, Vatatmajaha, Sreerama Dutaha and Kesari Suthaha.

Hanuma was born on Vaisakha, Bahula Dasami, Saturday, Poorvabhadra Star according to Parasara Samhita. His father Vayu (The Wind God) had given him

HANUMA TAKING OFF TO LANKA



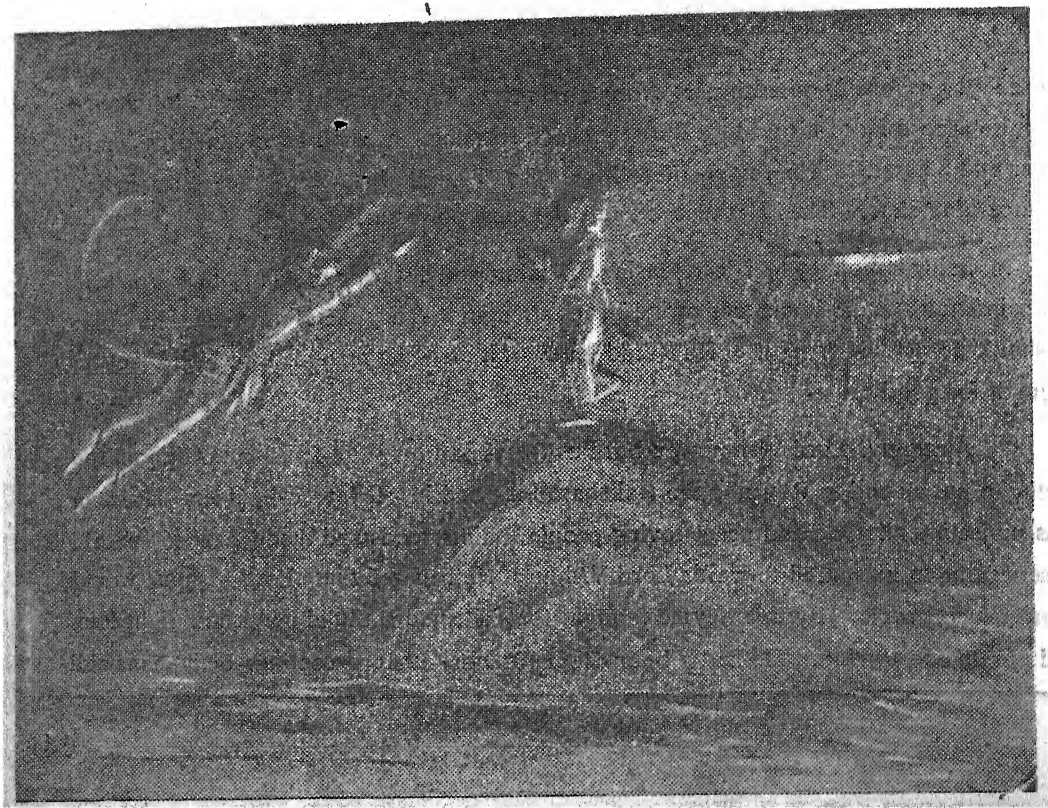
strength enough to fly and travel in air with lightning speed. Having born under the Amsa of Lord Sankara, he was very powerful from his child hood days. One day Anjana went to fetch flowers, leaving Hanuma alone. Hanuma was hungry. He saw the rising Sun and mistook him to be a fruit. He flew to the sky to catch the Sun and eat it. All the Gods were surprised at the strength and ability of the kid. Lord Indra saw it, and to relieve the Sun, hit Hanuman with his mighty weapon, Vajrayudha. Hanuma fell to the earth and lay unconscious. Lord Vayu was angry at this. He stopped moving. As a result entire mankind and all living beings of the universe were finding it difficult to breathe. In order to save the universe from total destruction Lord Brahma along with other Gods intervened and blessed Hanuma to appease Lord Vayu for free movement of air. Hanuma was back to his normal self. Lord Brahma said 'Hanuma is born with the sole purpose of helping elimination of Rakashasas (Evil doers) I bless him with intellectual genius. He shall be strong and mighty and unharmed even to the mightiest weapons including my weapon 'Brahma Astra'. He shall live forever to alleviate the misery and sufferings of mankind and help who ever prays him'. Lord Indra



blessed “I give one hundredth part of my strength to him. He shall be able to change his guise according to his wish. Without even learning, he shall be an authority on all Vedas and Sastras.” The rest of the Gods also blessed him with strength, vigour, resourcefulness etc. Thus Hanuma became the most powerful.

Being a monkey he began teasing the saints and disturbing them in their worship. The saints felt that Hanuma was proud of his strength. They therefore cursed him that he should forget his strength. He would know of it on being reminded of it and use the strength for good cause.

Almighty, Lord Vishnu was born as Rama and his Wife Lakshmi as Sita on the earth, to put an end to Ravana, the Rakshasa king and his fellow evil doers. Ravana was subjecting all good and peace loving people, saints, gods and goddesses to untold miseries due to his hatred towards Lord Vishnu. He believed that Lord Vishnu would protect such people. By this way he thought that he could get hold of Vishnu, fight Him and put an end to Him. He had a boon from Brahma that excepting by humans and



monkeys, he shall not be killed by anothers. He was, therefore, searching for Vishnu to put an end to Him. Therefore Vishnu had to be born as a human. As has been stated earlier Vishnu had born as Rama. The story of Rama is known as Ramayana. Ramayana is one of the epics of Hindu mythology. Rama married Sita. At the behest of his father Dasaradha, he left the throne of Ayodhya and went to live in the forest for fourteen years. His wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana accompanied him. He lived in Dandakaranya and other forests for thirteen years happily. During this time he killed several Rakshasas and relieved the miseries of the saints and good people of those parts. Lakshmana insulted the sister of Ravana. Ravana was annoyed at this. He cheated Rama and Lakshmana and in the guise of a saint stole Sita when she was alone in the hut. He brought her to his Kingdom, Lanka, an island in the Sea. Seeing her beauty, Ravana kept her in Ashoka Garden of Lanka. There she ate fruits, slept on ground and patiently waited for the good day of reunion with Rama. Rama and Lakshmana in their search for Sita, reached Rishyamuka hill, where, Sugreeva, The Vanara King (Monkey King) in exile was residing. His brother Vali had taken his Wife and



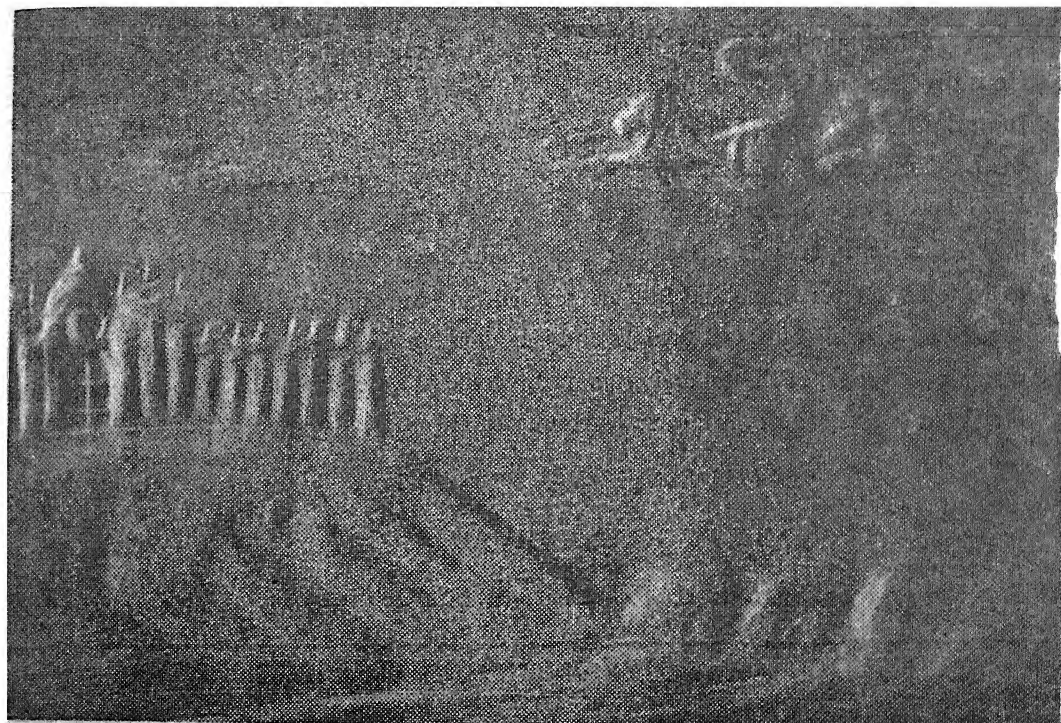
exiled him from Kishkindha Kingdom. Hanuman was the Minister-in-chief of Sugreeva. He met Rama and Lakshmana and got him acquainted with them, brought them to Sugreeva. He made a friendship treaty between Rama and Sugreeva. According to it Rama would kill Vali and make Sugreeva king of Kishkindha and Sugreeva would reciprocate and help Rama in finding Sita and fighting the enemy. Accordingly Rama killed Vali and made Sugreeva King of Kishkindha. Sugreeva in turn sent lakhs of monkeys in all directions to search Sita. Anjaneya was one among them. Anjaneya located Sita, He returned and reported the position to Rama. Rama with the help of Vanaras built a VARADHI(bridge) on the sea with boulders and hills, reached Lanka with Vanara army. He fought the ten headed Ravana and killed him. He had rescued Sita and taken her back. Meanwhile the fourteen years period was over. He returned to Ayodhya with Sita, Lakshmana and others. He became the king, the best of the kings, and ruled the country ideally with full glory. His rule was known to be the best and any country that flourishes well is called now-a-days as 'RAMA RAJYA'.



Hanuman had played the pivotal role in Ramayana being born for the purpose. He is the Precious Jewel of the garland of Ramayana. The great ocean was a cow's footprint's size for him. In his hands the Rakshasas met their end like mosquitoes. He burnt the Lanka by the fire of Sita's grief. He found Sita for Rama. He fought the Rakshasas and helped Rama in recovery of Sita. He could perform this task with sheer devotion and dedication. He was a Bachelor with absolute self-control. His presence is believed to be felt wherever Rama and Sita are revered and worshipped. He is believed to help those who worship him. Saturdays and Tuesdays are the auspicious days for Hanuma worship. Recital of the following mantra would please Hanuma who showers his blessings. This Mantra is known as Hanuman Gayatri.

“OM ANJANEYAYA VIDMAHE
VAYU PUTRAYA DHIMAH
TANNO HANUMATH PRACHODAYAT”

CHAYAGRAHI - PULLING ANJANEYA



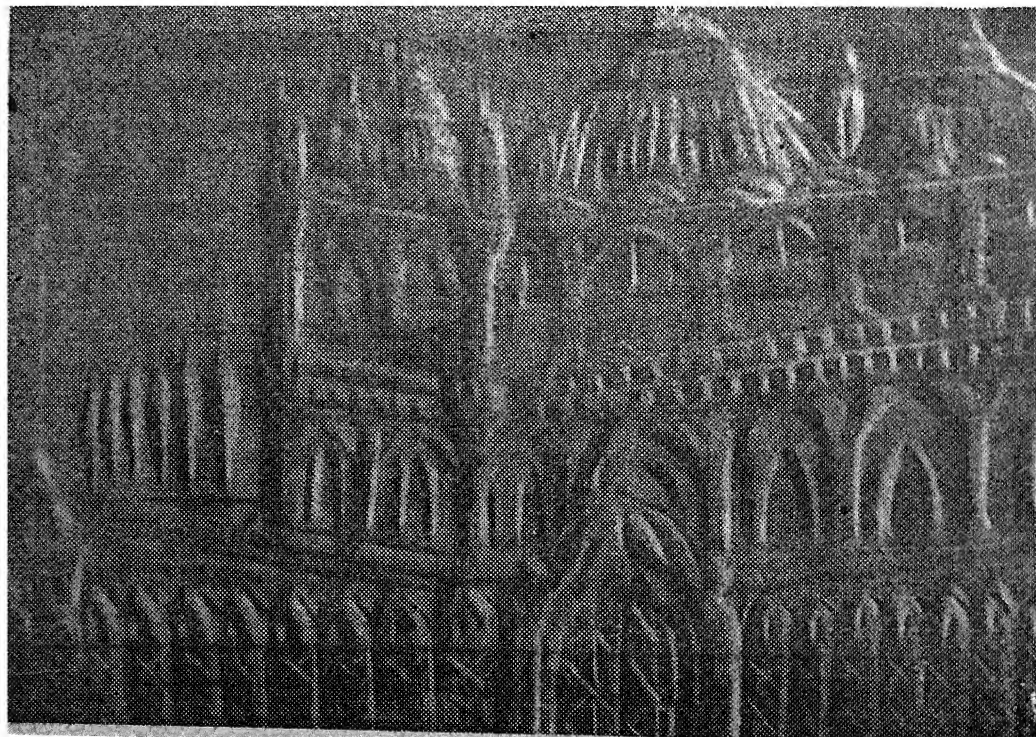
One who chants this Sanskrit verse eleven times a day is destined to have mental peace, happiness and fulfilment. Chanting of one hundred eight times would do immense good.

The moment that Hanuma started from Mahendragiri in search of Sita till his reporting the whereabouts of her to Rama is known as 'SUNDARA KANDAMU'. Sundara means nice or beautiful and Kandamu means branch or part. It is the nicest part of Ramayanam. Sundarakandam itself is divided into sixty eight sub-groups known as Sargas. The nail art Pictorial presentation in this book consists of 92 pictures. The nail Artist Shri S. Ramakrishna Rao had with the nail tips of left hand thumb and middle fingers drawn these pictures on white thick blank cards. It is a difficult art, where by, the artist had brought out the curves and depressions on the card bringing out the pictures with live features. The Photograph Artist Shri S. Appa Rao had done a superb job in projecting light shades on the white cards, caught hold of the strokes and depressions on the cards by the eye of the camera and brought out the Pictures which you are now witnessing in this book.



These pictures portray the important incidents of Sundarakanda. A brief gist of each of the 68 sub-groups is given in English for clarity's sake. The viewers may read the gists which give the total but brief presentation of the whole Sundarakanda. A reading will give immense happiness to the mind and body as well. Sri Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Bharata, Satrugna and Hanuma will bless the reader with prosperity.

There is a parallel in Hindu Philosophy to Sundarakanda, since it depicts the nicest part of human life, that of reunion of soul with the Almighty. Rama is considered as Parmatma, the Almighty. Sita is considered to be Atma, the Soul. Hanuman is considered to be the Guru, who preaches the way and unifies Atma with Paramatma. Every incident in Sundarakanda has a philosophical parallel. Fort Lanka had nine entries and the fort of human body has nine holes. Sita was in Lanka and Atma is in the human body. Hanuman had to enter Lanka and the Guru has to enter the mind of the disciple with his preaches. 'GURU' means Teacher or Preacher. The letters 'GU' stands for darkness or ignorance and the letters 'RU' is the light that dispels the darkness. It is the 'GURU' who removes the ignorance and enlightens the



disciple. Hanuman had given the ring of Rama to Sita as identification and the Guru has to pass on the message of the Almighty to the disciple soul. Hanuman had destroyed Ashoka Garden and burnt the Lanka and the Guru has to burn the ego or Ahamkar of the disciple and other desires for realisation of God. Sita had given Chudamani to be given to Rama and through the Guru the disciple had to convey the purity of soul to the Almighty for salvation. The reunion of Sita with Rama is the salvation or the reunion of the soul with the Almighty.

The viewers are requested to go through all the Pictures and read the gist of all Sundarakanda. at least once every day and derive the benefits accruing out of it.

OM TATSAT

LANKANAGAR



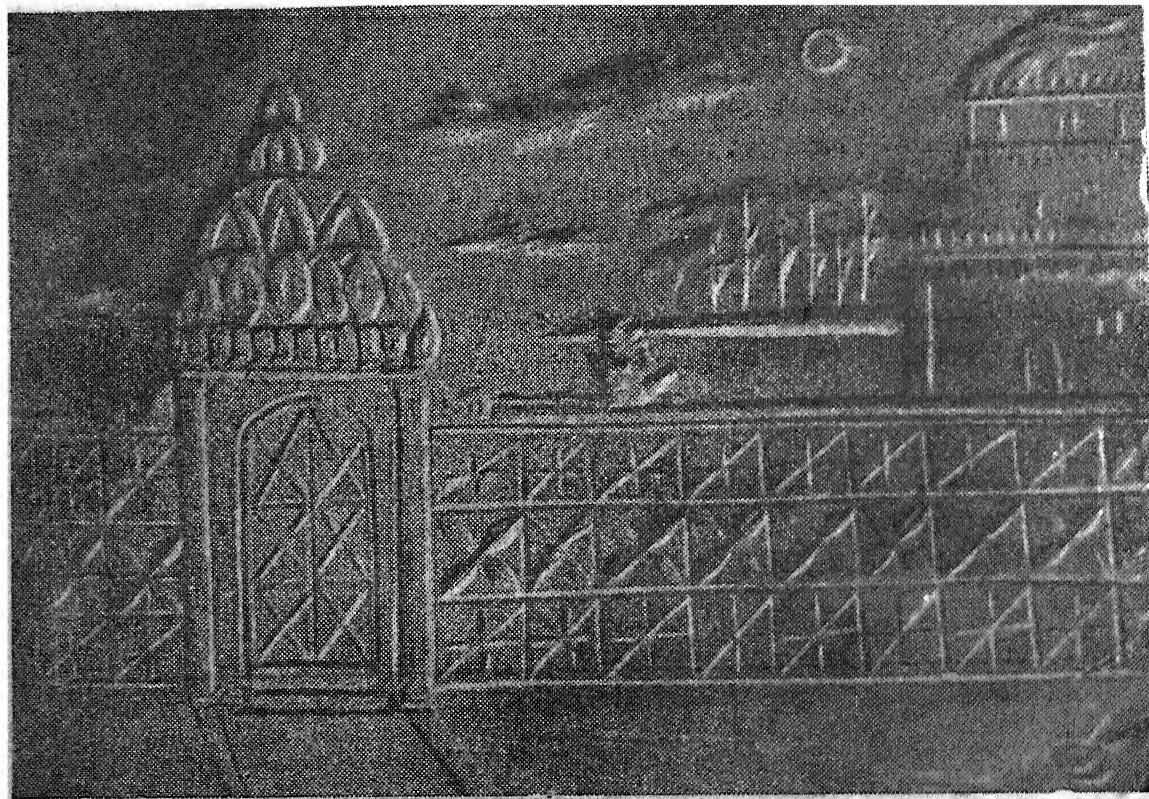
1ST SARGA

1—1 Anjaneya otherwise known as Hanuma, in an attempt to search Sita, wife of Rama, went with his followers to Southern side and reached Mahendragiri hill. Hanuman heard that Rakshasa King Ravana stole Sita. He wanted to go to the Lanka, Ravana's Kingdom and an island in the midst of ocean. Hanuman along with his followers climbed Mahendragiri. He had gone to its Peak intending to jump and fly to cross the one hundred yojanas ocean in between Mahendragiri and Lanka. Turning to-wards east, he offered his prayers to his father, Lord Vayu, his guru, Lorn Son, Lord Indra and other Gods and goddesses to help him in his endeavour of finding Sita for Rama. He then enlarged his body. With absolute self-confidence, he assured his followers of his imminent success in his mission. Then he made a leap with all his might from Mahendragiri. Unable to with stand the impact of his take off, Mahendragiri reverberated for sometime. With a great roar, Hanuman stretched his hands, kept his tail up, looked up-wards and flew to the sky, Admiring his ability, all the gods praised him. The impact of his movement was so great that due to pressure caused, some trees on Mahendragiri were uprooted and accompanied him for a while, perhaps to see him off and wishing him good luck. Thus Hanuman rose to the sky and began flying over the sea.

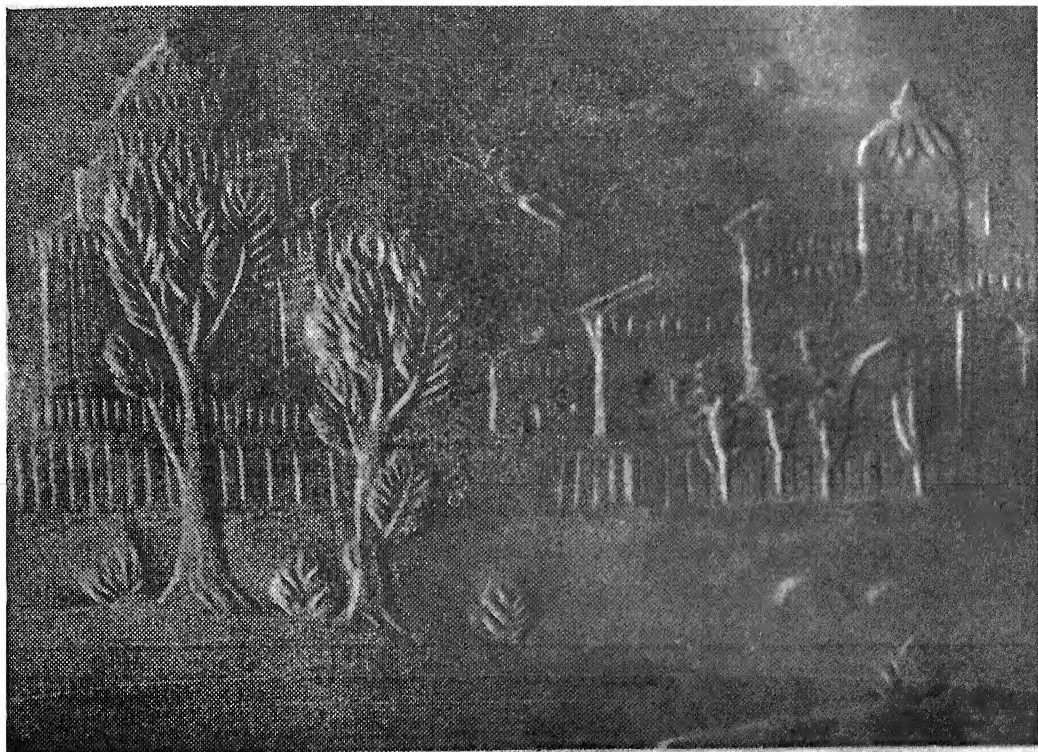
A BLOW TO LANKINI - THE GAURD OF LANKA



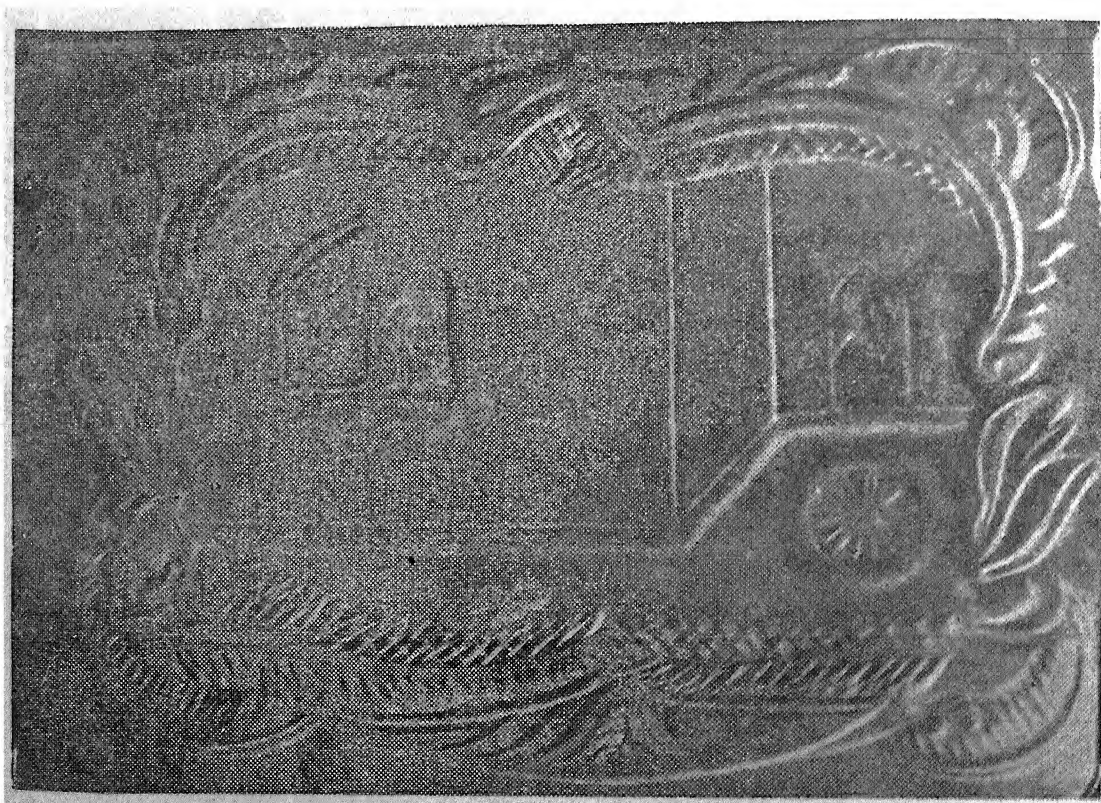
1—2 Meanwhile, at the behest of Sagara, the King of Sea, Mainaka, a hillock and a friend of Lord Vayu, rose from the midst of the ocean obstructing the flight of Hanuman. Hanuman thinking it to be a bad omen, tried to hit Mainaka with his chest. Mainaka avoiding the hit appealed “Oh! Hanuma! son of Lord Vayu! I, came as a friend to help you in your sacred mission. Let me share your burden Be a guest and rest on me for some time. Please take some fruits on me. Eat them. After a little rest you proceed further with renewed vigour”. Hanuma was happy. He told Mainaka “Oh! Mainaka! I am happy at your gesture. But I do not have time for food or rest”. So saying Hanuma patted Mainaka with his hand and continued his flight. He gained altitude as though touching the stars.



1—3 The Gods who were witnessing the Hanuman's flight, wanted to test him. They assigned the task to a snake goddess named 'Surasa'. Surasa in a very fearful guise of a monstress with a very big mouth stood in front of Hanuma in his flight and said "the gods have shown you as my food. Come enter my mouth". Hanuma said "I am going on Rama's work. I shall be your food on successfully completing my mission. Please bear with me and let me go". Surasa was defiant. She refused to accede to Hanuma's request Hanuma enlarged his body. Surasa too had correspondingly enlarged her mouth. In a fraction of a second, Hanuma contracted his body to that of the size of a little finger, without being noticed by Surasa, entered her big mouth quickly and came out equally faster. He then said "I entered your mouth as desired and came back. Now you can let me go". Surasa was very much happy at the resourcefulness of Hanuma, blessed him and let him go. The Gods were pleased, praised Hanuma and blessed him.



1—4 Thus Hanuma was continuing his flight. Simhika, a monster with big mouth lay hidden under the surface of the sea. It used to pull by shadow any living creatures that flew over it and used to eat them. When Hanuma was flying over that place, he suspected that he was being pulled down. He saw down-wards and found the monstress with jaws wide open to gulp him. Hanuma could not escape. The monster gulped him. Hanuma went into its belly and enlarged his body. With his sharp nails, he tore Simhika's heart, killed it and came out. Again he rose to the sky. Thus Hanuma crossed all the barriers in his flight and reached the 'Trikuta' hill, which is adjacent to Lanka. He reached there before sunset. Then he shrunk his body to the size of a small cat. He wanted to observe Lanka from Trikuta hill till darkness set in totally.



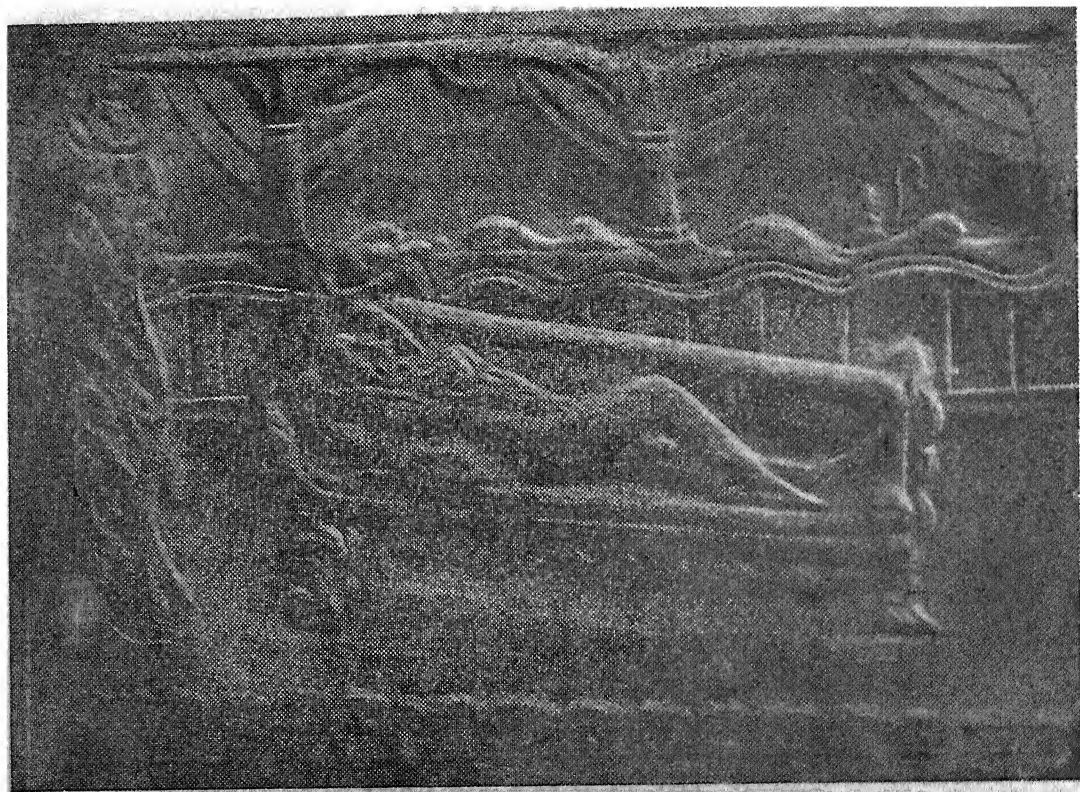
2ND SARGA

Thus Hanuma crossed the one hundred Yojanas wide ocean without any exertion and without being noticed by anybody he began observing Lanka from the peak of the Trikuta hill. Hanuma found Lanka to be identical in all respects to Amaravathi - the capital city of Lord Indra, King of Gods - and Alkapuri, capital of Kubera, the Lord of Wealth. Lanka was full of beautiful palatial buildings, nice gardens and ponds, rivers, hillocks invaluable treasures consisting of jewellery, pearls, gold etc. He was surprised at the beauty and glory of the whole place. He saw Rakshasas guarding the city. He thought it very difficult to enter the city with so tight a security arrangement right round it. He went to the northern gate. He stood at a distance and was thinking how to enter Lanka without being noticed by anybody, search Sita and accomplish the task. He decided to wait till darkness sets in. He wanted to change the guise as a small domestic cat and sneak into the city without being obstructed by the guards. As soon as the moon shone Hanuma contracted his body and approached Lanka to sneak into it as if small domestic cat enters the house without being noticed.



3RD SARGA

Hanuma, while approaching Lanka thought Sugreeva, the Vanara King and a few others can enter Lanka. It may not be easy for all to enter. He made up his mind on a second thought that with the might of Rama and Lakshmana, it should be possible for all others to enter Lanka. In the guise of the small domestic cat, he tried to sneak in. But he was promptly obstructed by 'Lankini', the demon protecting the city, who said "Oh! Stop! Who are you? How dare you enter the city without my permission?" Hanuma asked her in reply "tell me first who are you? I shall disclose my identity later". She said "I am the protector of Lanka Fort. I shall guard it always and not allow even an insect to creep in." Hanuma then said "I shall see the orchards and gardens inside and return." So saying he wanted to enter. Lankini said "Stop! You shall not enter without defeating me". She appeared in the guise of a monstress and hit Hanuma with her right palm. Hanuma was wild. But he cooled down, because Lankini was a woman. He changed the guise to the normal shape of a monkey and enlarged his body. With his left fist he hit Lankini. With that blow, Lankini fainted. After sometime she regained consciousness and said Oh! Great Vanara! Brahma once said that when I get defeated by a Vanara, then Lanka will be destroyed. I am defeated. You can enter Lanka and do your job". So saying Lankini disappeared.



4TH SARGA

Hanuma entered Lanka stepping his left foot first inside. Right from that movement he began searching Sita. He searched all the palatious buildings which had strange things. He heard scintilating and enchanting Musical notes. Chanting of Vedic hymns was also heard prominently. Elegant looking as well as fearfull and ugly looking Rakshasas were soon busily roaming. He also saw a number of elephants, horses and chariots, He saw Rakshasa soldiers with arms guarding all the important positions. Hanuma observed the Lanka in its grandeur. He continued his search moving further into interiors of Lanka.



5TH SARGA

The moon became brighter. Lanka shone like a diamond in the moonlight. Hanuma saw Rakshasa soldiers actively guarding all the places. He saw some making weapons useful for warfare. He noticed some Rakshasas enjoying with their beautiful Rakshasa Women. He also found a number of good looking women. He was carefully and intensely watching all the places for Sita. Alas! He could not find Sita inspite of his intense search. This thought made Hanuma gloomy.

RAVANA OBSERVING A DANCING DAMSEL



6TH SARGA

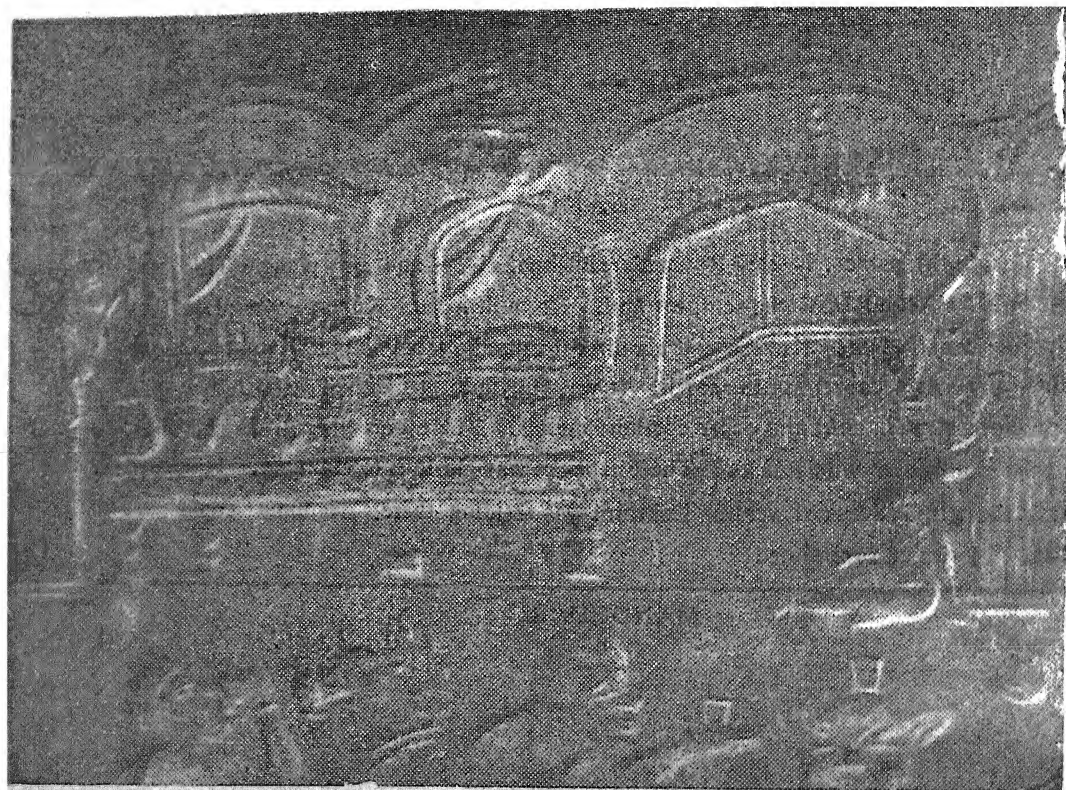
Hanuma, however, regained his confidence and continued his search for Sita. He came near Ravana's fort. It was guarded very heavily. It had many elevated structures on all corners for security purposes. The structures were also heavily guarded. The buildings inside the fort were full of pet animals and birds, young and charming women. The building was vast like an ocean. Hanuma went inside the fort without being noticed. He saw thousands and thousands of elephants, horses, chariots. He searched the residences of Ravana's brothers, Vibhishana and Kumbhakarna. He also checked the houses of Indrajit - Ravana's son, Prahasta, Ravana's minister, and other important persons. He also searched orchards, gardens, ponds, dance and music halls on the way to Ravana's palace without any result. Hanuma entered the inner-most part of Ravan's palace, where his one lakh wives resided.

RAVANA AMIDST WOMEN



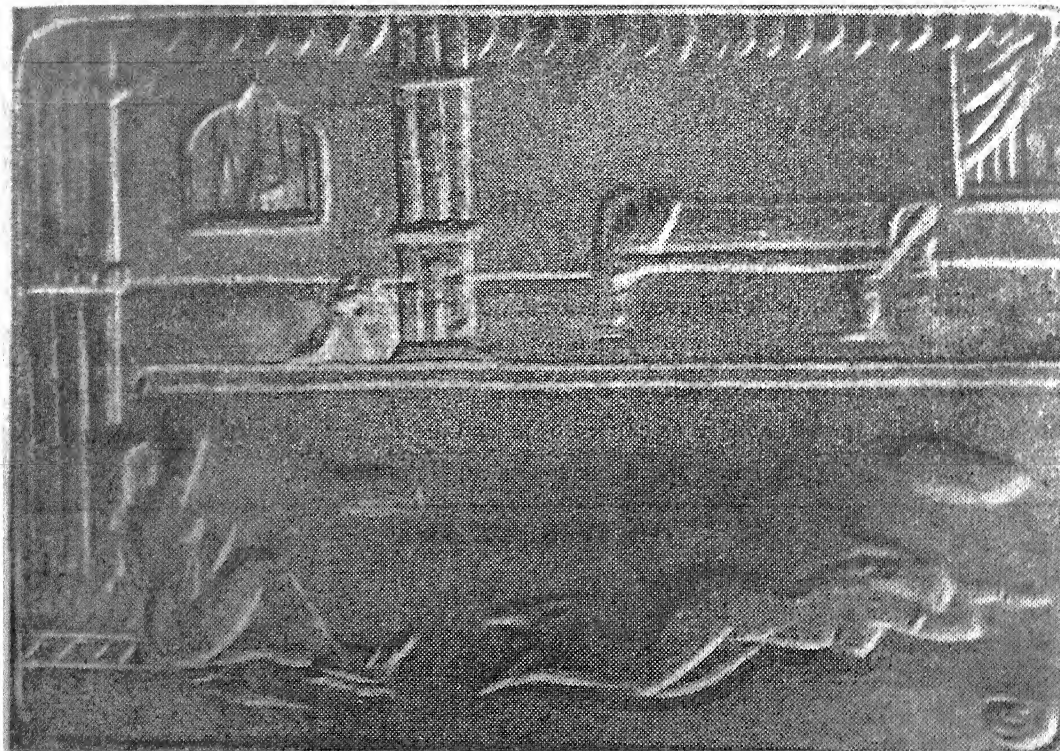
7TH SARGA

Inside the palace, he saw Ravana's 'Pushpaka' - an air - plane. This was built by 'VISAVAKARMA' the sculptor god. He built it for Kubera - the Lord of Wealth. Ravana defeated Kubera and acquired Pushpaka from him. Hanuma found the air - plane as a heaven on the earth. It was fully adorned with Pearls, Jewels and other precious stones, gold and other costliest metals. There were beautiful paintings. There were ponds also with lotuses. The Pushpaka was glorious to Hanuma. It seemed to him as though Goddess of wealth, Lakshmi was residing there. Hanuma could not find Sita. He was disappointed.



8TH SARGA

Hanuma again searched Pushpaka. He thought that 'Pushpaka, was a strange thing which could not be found even in heaven. The features of the Pushpaka were that it was flexible and elastic in its capacity. Its capacity would automaticall adjust i. e., increase or decrease according to the number of occupants. It could fly faster than air or thought. It was depicted as carried by several thousands of powerful demons and can move in space with greatest speed. Hanuma could not find Sita.



9TH SARGA

Hanuma entered the Ravana's palace inside 'Pushpaka'. It was one Yojana in length and half Yojana in width. Ravana's wives were sleeping. Those whom Ravana forcibly brought were also there. All of them were in their prime of youth and were very charming. The beauty of the palace with the glamorous women could not be described in words. All of them were fast asleep side by side with their clothes on their bodies let loose. The fragrance of the flowers they put on was still afresh. Ravana was sleeping in their midst. He shone like moon among stars in the midst of woman.

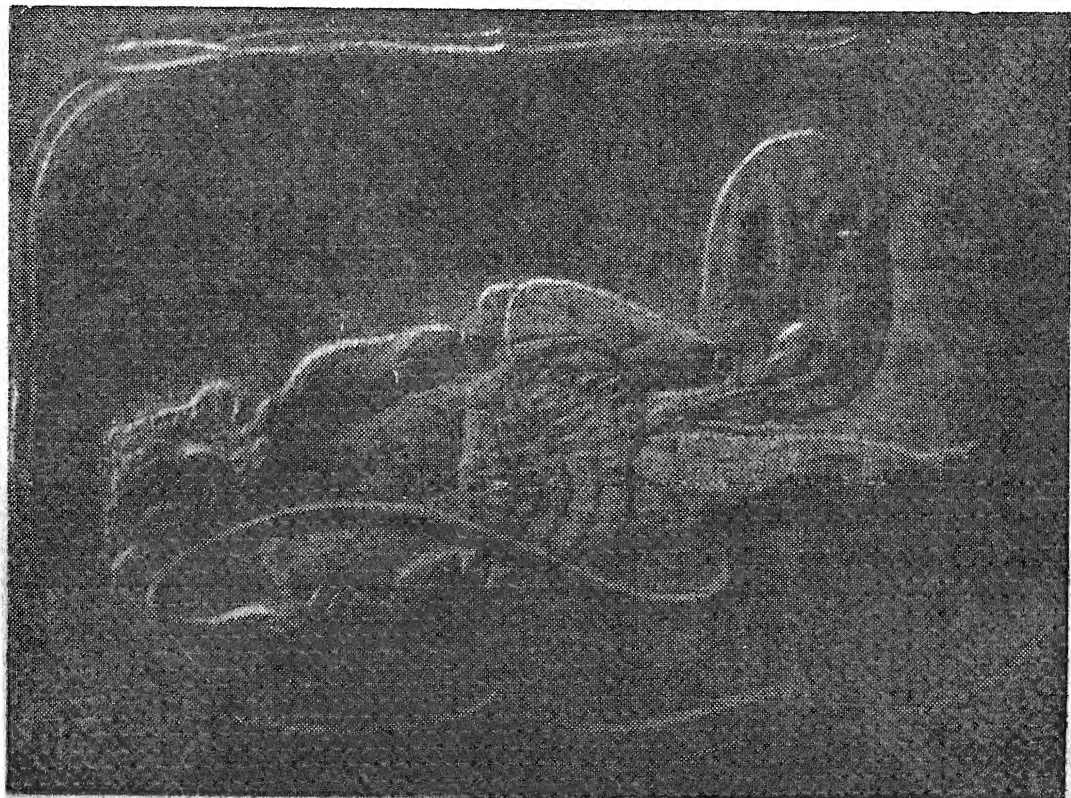
WOMEN IN HAREM



10TH SARGA

Hanuma saw Ravana sleeping on bed. The bed was made up of ivory, gold, pearls, jewels and other precious stones. Its value was unimaginable. The bed was decorated with pearl beads and flower beads. Rakshasa women were waving the fans. Ravana's body was full of sandal wood paste. He was fully drunk. He was sleeping like wild elephant. He stretched both his hands. He was black in complexion and wore all ornaments. Many women were sleeping around him. There were lot of musical instruments also. Hanuma passed by and in another room he found a most glamorous woman sleeping on a bed. She was the queen of Ravana. Her name was Mandodari. Hanuma mistook her to be Sita and was over-joyed.

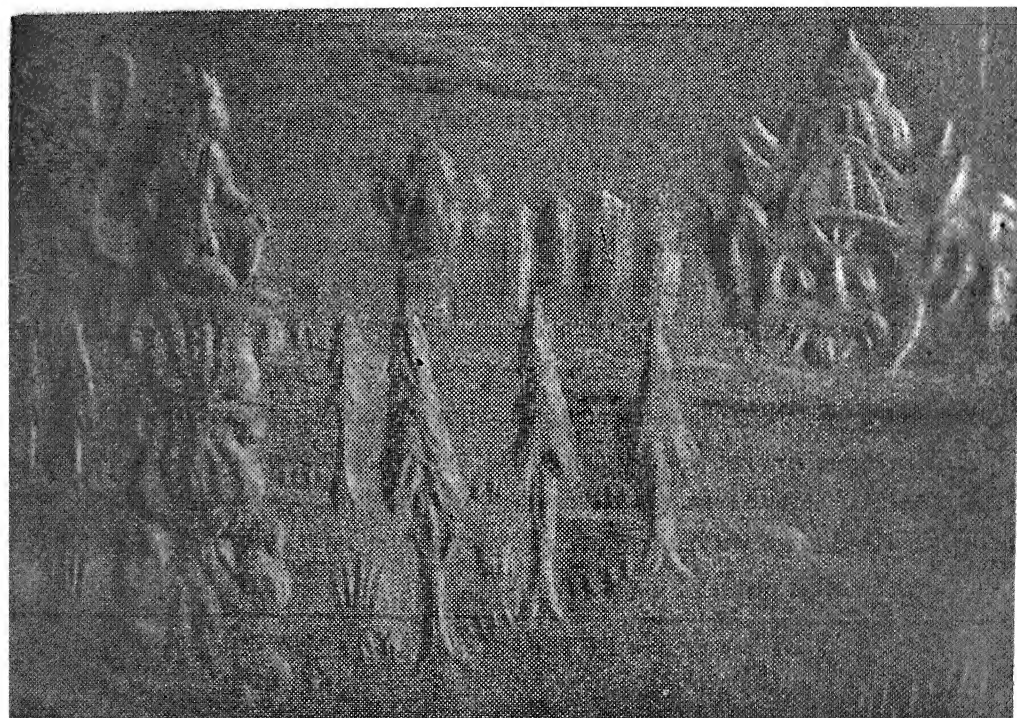
HANUMA LOST IN THOUGHTS



11TH SARGA

Hanuma once again saw her carefully. He thought for a while and concluded that She could not be Sita. Sita by soul and heart was Rama's wife. She would neither think of other men nor dream of such pleasures in others company. She must be somebody else and not Sita. Having decided so, Hanuma entered another room, where Ravana and his wives would wine and dine. The room was full of varieties of liquors and various types of non-vegetarian dishes. Some vessels were full while the others were half empty. He saw some women there too. He could not find Sita. Hanuma was unhappy, because he had to search in such private places. He made up his mind and said to himself "I am pure. I cannot but search in such places. I am looking for a woman. I have to search in places where women only live. I hope that I am not wrong since I had to see women half naked, naked, and in other postures". He continued his search in other places of the building.

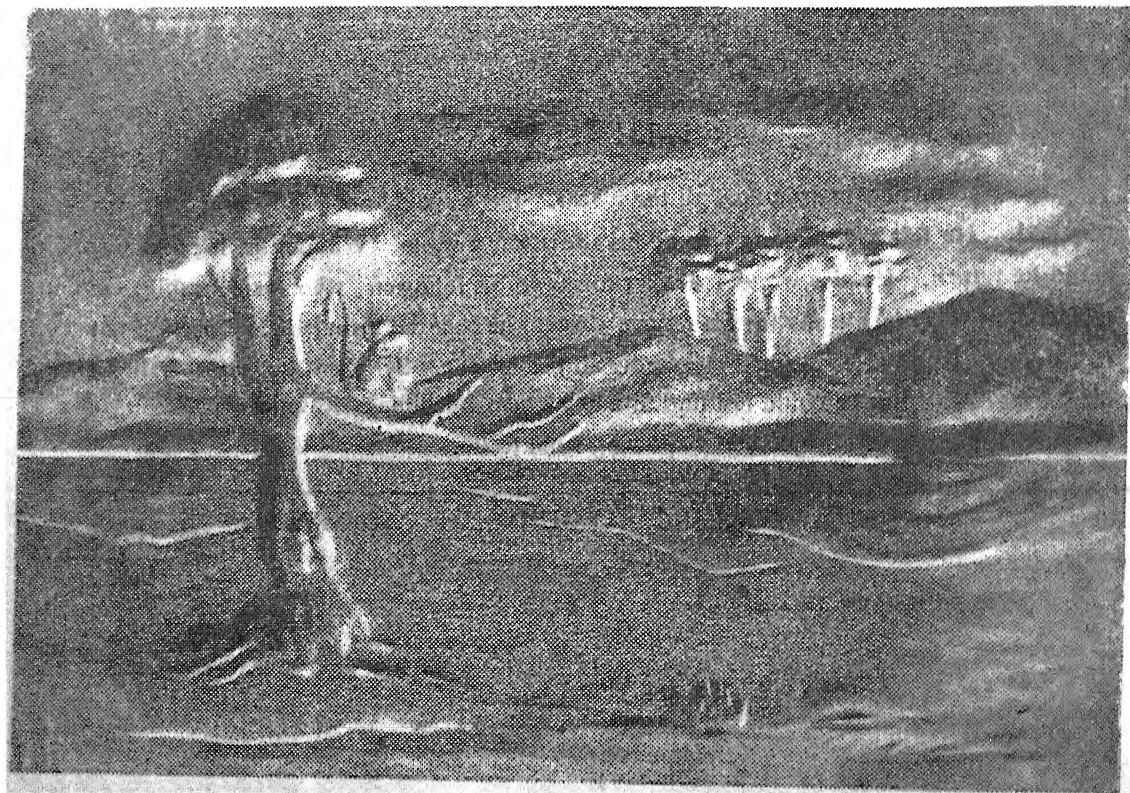
ENTERING ASOKAVANA



12TH SARGA

Hanuma again examined all the places. But he could not find Sita. He was very sad. He felt bad thinking that all his effort was a waste. Without tracing Sita how could he return. He also wondered what to say to his followers, who were waiting at Mahendragiri optimistically for his return. Again he changed his mind and decided not to be complacent. He searched repeatedly all the places. By then he searched almost all the Lanka. But he could not find Sita any where including Ravana's palace. He then came out of Pushpaka not knowing what to do.

HANUMA LOOKING AROUND IN ASOKAVANA



13TH SARGA

He went to the boundary wall once again and sat on it gloomily. He said to himself "I searched entire Lanka. But I could not find Sita. Whether the information given by that bird Sampati was wrong? Is it possible for Sita to accept Ravana as her husband and mingled among the women I had seen? Or, is it possible that she might have been slipped out of Ravana's hands fell in the sea and drowned when he was bringing her to Lanka? Or, whether Ravana had killed her and eaten her up? Should I return empty handed? No! I don't go empty handed I rather prefer to die than to do that. Should I straight go to Ravana, wake him up and ask him about Sita? No! It is not wise to do that. But what to do; I have searched entire Lanka and could not find her." He then saw Ashoka Garden. He said to himself Oh! I did not search this Ashoka Garden. Let me try my luck". So thinking Hanuma decided to get down the wall and go to Ashoka Garden.



14TH SARGA

Form the boundary wall, Hanuma moved into the Ashoka Garden with lightening speed. He roamed from one tree to another tree speedily, searching for Sita. The Ashoka Garden was full of all varieties of trees. All the trees were with flowers and fruits. There were small ponds here and there, full of lotuses. The garden was so big that there were hillocks and rivers also glorifying the beauty of it. Hanuma moved to the tallest tree - a Simsupa tree - to have a vantage view of the entire garden. He sat amidst dense leaves and looked around. He saw a small river close by. He wanted to wait there expecting Sita to come to the river for a bath. At the same time, he was looking around.

FINDING SITA



15TH SARGA

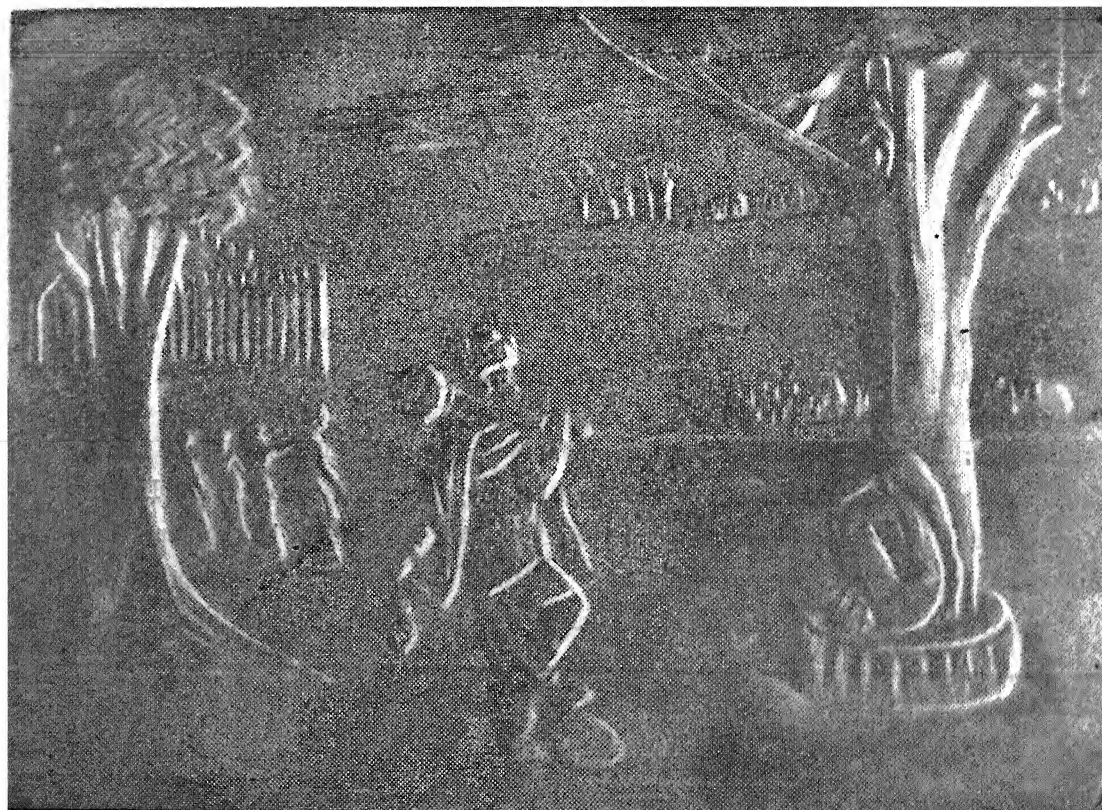
While he was looking around wondering at the beauty of the garden, he saw very nearby a small and white building. It was 'Chaitya Prasada'. The building was elegant adding grandeur to the beauty of the Ashoka Garden. With a number of decorative pillars and posts, the building looked like 'Kailasa' the abode of Lord Siva. Hanuma stared at the building, where he saw a weak, but very beautiful Lady. Her dress was full of dirt. She was so very good looking that she was shining like a full moon in that garden. He concluded that she must be none-else but Sita. She was sitting gloomily amidst Rakshasa women, She resembled the description which Rama had made. He also saw and identified the type of ornaments worn by her. He thought by all counts, she tallied with the description given by Rama. He decided that she was Sita. He was over-joyed and bowed in reverence in his heart to Rama and Sita.



16TH SARGA

Hanuma began lamenting thus within him-self with deep sighs, sitting on the tree—"Oh! Rama! Sita! how the cruel fate had subjected you to all this misery of separation. Oh! Sita! daughter of great King, Janaka, daughter-in-law of another great King, Dasaradha and wife of Rama! You are undergoing this ordeal and waiting patiently for the day of reunion with Rama. Oh! Rama! how much agony you are undergoing for Sita. For her sake you killed Viradha, Kabandha and other Rakshasas; killed in Janasthana fourteen thousand rakshasas; killed Vali and made Sugreeva the King of Kishkindha. For her sake only, you asked me to go to Lanka. You will do anything and everything for her sake. You will certainly kill Ravana and others, taken her and be happy with her." Hanuma saw that Sita was apparently distressed and he felt sorry for her and Rama.

SITA AMIDST UGLY DEMONS



17TH SARGA

While Hanuma was in that mood, moon had moved to the left side. Then the moon rays were falling on the eastern side. He could clearly see Sita. She was sitting amidst ugly looking Rakshasa women Sita seemed to be nervous, depressed and distressed like a deer missing her flock; a lone female elephant near a fierceful lion don and as a full moon covered by clouds. Hanuma could notice that Sita was deeply sighing out of intense sorrow. He confirmed again to him-self that she was Sita. He offered prayers to Rama and Lakshmana for his luck of locating Sita and was sitting on the Simsupa tree behind the dense leaves.

RAVANA COMES TO SITA



18TH SARGA

The night was about to end and the darkness to recede. Lanka was resounding with Vedic Hymns. Auspicious musical notes were also heard. Ravana woke up. He wanted to see Sita. He adorned himself with all ornaments and with flower beads around his neck, entered the Ashoka Garden pompously. About one hundred good looking women followed him including his queen Mandodari. Some women carried torches to have adequate light. The handles of the torches were of pure gold. Some women were weaving fans at him. One woman was walking in the forefront with a vessel full of Liquor. He came near Sita. Hanuma saw all this. Ravana seemed to him as a cupid. He began observing Ravana, who was closeby.

RAVANA SPEAKS TO SITA



19TH SARGA

Beholding Ravana, Sita trembled with fear like a plantain tree in a whirlwind. Ravana came near her. Sita sat uncomfortably. Ravana saw her in a distressed condition. To Ravana, Sita seemed to be like a boat about to sink in the sea; a branch cut from a tree and lying on the ground; a lotus plucked from the pond and thrown away; a star attacked by a comet; fame spoiled by false allegations; an unrewarding education; an army without fighting spirit and as a moon on a lunar eclipse day. He also noticed that she was always thinking of Rama and none else. He wanted to win over her and to make her forget about Rama, he began talking to her in sweet and attractive words.

HE THREATENS HER



20TH SARGA

“Oh! Sita!” said Ravana, “Why are you uncomfortable? I want you and I love you. Why do you wantenly undergo these ordeals for nothing. Your Rama cannot come here. Please therefore reconcile yourself to the realities. Come to my palace and enjoy all heavenly comforts. I will make you the queen of Lanka. I will win over the entire earth and give it to your father. I wil do all favours to your relatives. I will place at your feet all the beautiful ladies in the world as your attendants. Mary me and enjoy all comforts. None can stand before me and fight with me. Forget about Rama. Why do you bemoan for Rama, who has nothing and who is roaming in the forests deprived of his Kingdom?”

SITA REPLYS



21ST SARGA

Sita heard all these words with great contempt. She plucked a grass root, put it in between himself and Ravana who was standing nearby and said "Oh! Ravana! for get me. It is not right of you, a learned man to think to loving me, a wife of another man, You love your women folk. Don't try to touch me. How will you feel if others touch your women? Is there no one to tender you a good piece of advice in this Lanka? Or, are you not heeding to such advices? The people of Lanka are unfortunate to have you as their king. You cannot separate me from Rama. By your foolish acts you are inviting death very fast It is not late even now. My Rama is a noble man. If you apologise and regret for the mistake, I am sure that Rama will pardon you. You better surrender me and pray for his clemency. Otherwise you cannot escape. If Rama and Lakshmana see you, you are sure to die. Can a dog survive before a tiger? You did a sin in stealing me in their absence. Time is running short on earth for you. Wherever you hide, Rama's arrow will not leave you. Have sence and act wisely before it gets too Late."

RAVANA GOES AWAY



22ND SARGA

Ravana was greatly annoyed at this advice. He uttered "Oh ! Sita ! How dare you talk all this? You are taking my persuasion to be weakness and uttering as you please. I can kill you. But of course I do not want to do it right now. I give you two months time. Sita replied calmly "Oh! Sinner! you are insulting Rama's wife and you will pay for this. You must be a fool to compare yourself to Rama. Rama is a wild elephant, while you are a hare. You are full of lust. You are sure to die shortly. How could you degenerate to such a low mental state having born to 'Kasyapa Brahma'? I would have reduced you to ashes with the power of my penance. But you should die in Rama's hands That is the reason why you are still alive." Ravana grew wild. He attempted to kill Sita. But Mandodari, his queen, intervened and advised him and took him back home. Ravana before going home advised Rakshasa women guards to frighten Sita.

DEMONS SPEAKING WITH SITA



23rd SARGA

After Ravana left that place, the Rakshasa lady guards, one by one, began advising Sita 'Oh' ! Sita ! Ravana is a Brahmin. He is the strongest and mightiest. He defeated Lord Indra-King of Gods. He is yet to be defeated. He loves you. He will make you the queen. He is wealthy. Lord Sun is afraid of him Lord Vayu trembles before him Clouds get frightened on hearing Ravana's name, and Rain. Earth, and trees are also afraid of him and to please him they give all sorts of grains and fruits. You better marry such a man and enjoy with him instead of undergoing these ordeals "

DEMONS THREATEN SITA



25th SARGA

Sita was perplexed at these arguments. Unable to withstand any longer, she stood up, caught hold of a branch of the Ashoka tree under which she was sitting and wept aloud with tears flowing. She was trembling with emotion and began crying "Rama! Lakshmana! Kausalya (Rama's mother)! Sumitra (Lakshmana's mother)! Would I have the luck of reunion with my Rama once again in my life time? What sin did I commit in my previous birth to undergo such an ordeal now? My plight is miserable. I do not have the freedom even to die. These guards do not permit me that".

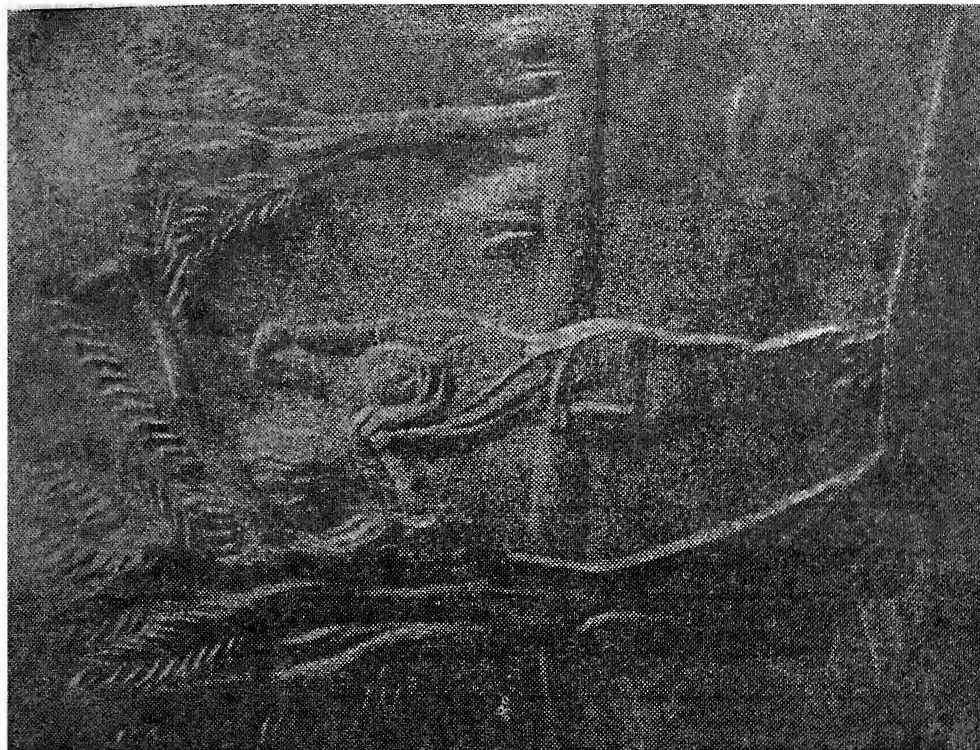
SITA'S SOLILOQUE



26th SARGA

She fell on to the ground. She began rolling and crying “What for this life is to me? What for these ornaments are? Why should I live without Rama? Why Rama has not come so far? No. They may not know that I am here. If they know won't they come? Will not this Lanka be smashed in no time before my Rama's might? Will not a time come when Rakshasa women weep like me? Why not these Rakshasa women eat me up? Well! before the dead line of 2 months I must perish my-self. There is not even one well-wisher for me, who can help me and give me poison atleast to get myself relieved of this torture.

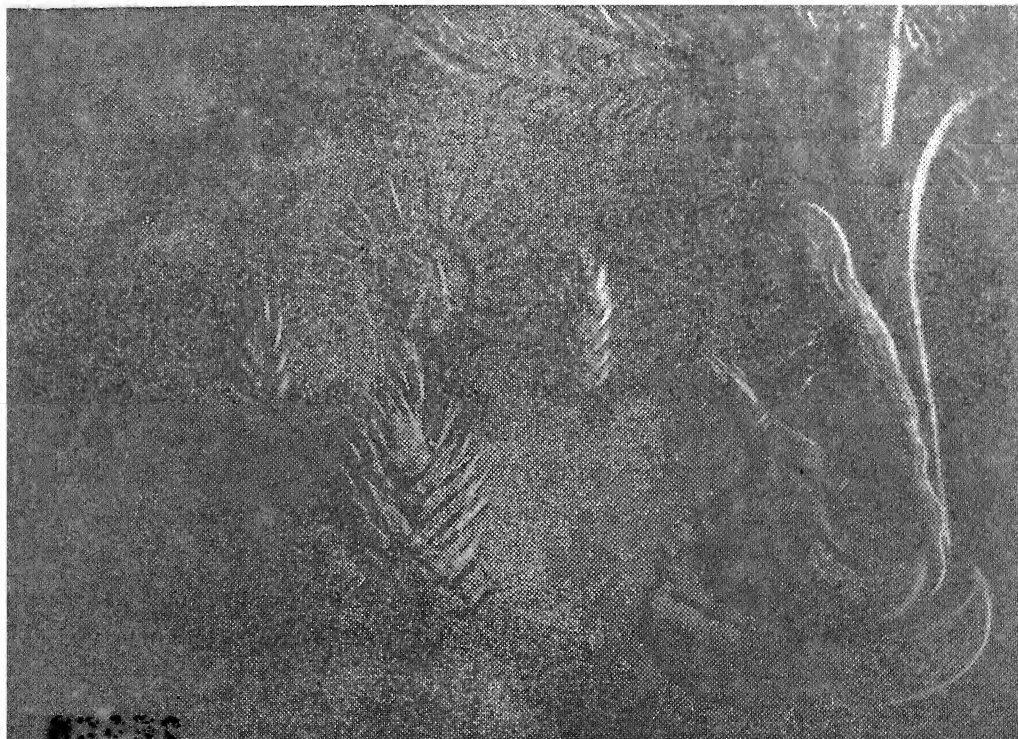
SITA'S IMAGINATION



27th SARGA

Some Rakshasa women went to Ravana to report what all Sita had said. Then an old Rakshasa woman by name 'Trijata' woke up from sleep. After ascertaining what all had happened advised the Rakshasa women "You don't abuse Sita. Heed to my advice. I just now had a dream. The result of the dream will be that Rama will emerge victorious and Ravana will perish. You hear the dream. A palanquin made of Ivory was being carried by one thousand swans. Rama and Lakshmana travelled in it. Draped in spotless white clothing, Sita stood on a white hill. Rama and Lakshmana came to Sita on a white elephant. Sita sat on Rama's lap. Rama and Sita sat on a chariot drawn by eight white bullocks. Pushpaka Air-plane flew in northern direction. Ravana and other Rakshasas with their heads cleanly shaven sat naked on the backs of asses and went in southern direction. A black woman was dragging them by a rope around their necks. Vibhishana, brother of Ravana, sat on Ravana's elephant. You can deduce the result of all these events of the dream. You, therefore, try to win over the favour of Sita and save yourselves". When Trijata was saying all this, Sita's left eye throbbed involuntarily-a sign Foreboding good. A good birds chirrupping was also heard signifying good for her.

SITA WANTS TO HANG HERSELF



28th SARGA

Unmindful of all these, Sita recalled Ravana's words. She was thinking of Rama. She decided to commit suicide. She blamed herself. She again thought of Kausalya and other relatives and cried aloud. She thought her Pativrata (treating husband as the God) did not help her. She thought Rama might have completed the Vanavasa (living in forest for 13 years-a desire of his father) and returned to Ayodhya, his home town. She thought it a waste to live any longer, left that place and walked to the Simsupa tree where Hanuma was hiding in its branches and dense leaves. She caught hold of one branch and decided to hang herself by her long hair.

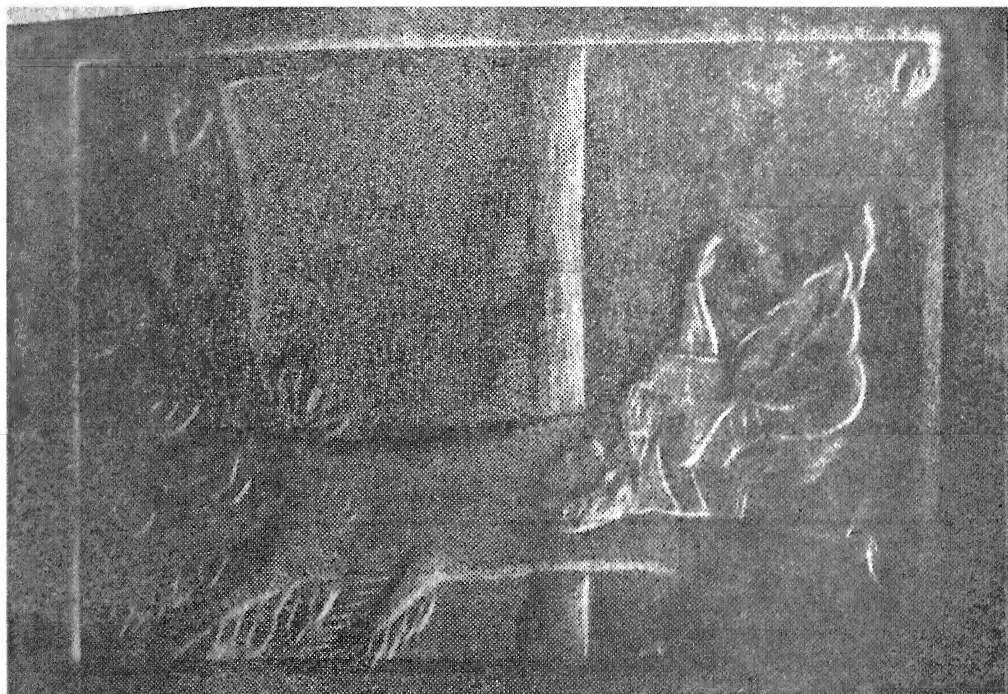
THE GOOD OMENS



29th SARGA

Again Sita had experienced good omens. Her left eye was repeatedly quivering voluntarily for no apparent reason. Similarly her left hand also shown signs of in quivering. Likewise her left thigh began quivering. Her saree began gradually slipping. All these signs, abode good for her. She thought for a while and reconciled to wait for some time in view of good omens. This made her to forget the sorrow. She was elated and her face was bright.

HANUMA SINGING IN RAMA'S PRAISE



30th SARGA

The arguments of Rakshasa women, the narration of Trijata's dream and Sita's attempt to commit suicide were closely followed by Hanuma. He said to himself "The job for which I came here has completed I saw Sita. No one had noticed me so far. If I return without consoling her, there may be danger for her life. She may commit suicide If Rama asks what Sita's reaction was and what she had said what can I tell him? If I say that I did not talk to her he may feel bad. So, I better talk to her. All the Rakshasa women guards have since gone to sleep again. This is the most opportune time. If I talk to her in Sanskrit, she may doubt me. So I better talk to her in her own (regional) language. I shall talk carefully without creating any fear to her. I shall ensure that matters do not get spoiled". Hanuma having decided, began to talk in a low tone so that she alone can hear what he was saying.

SITA SEES HANUMA



31st SARGA

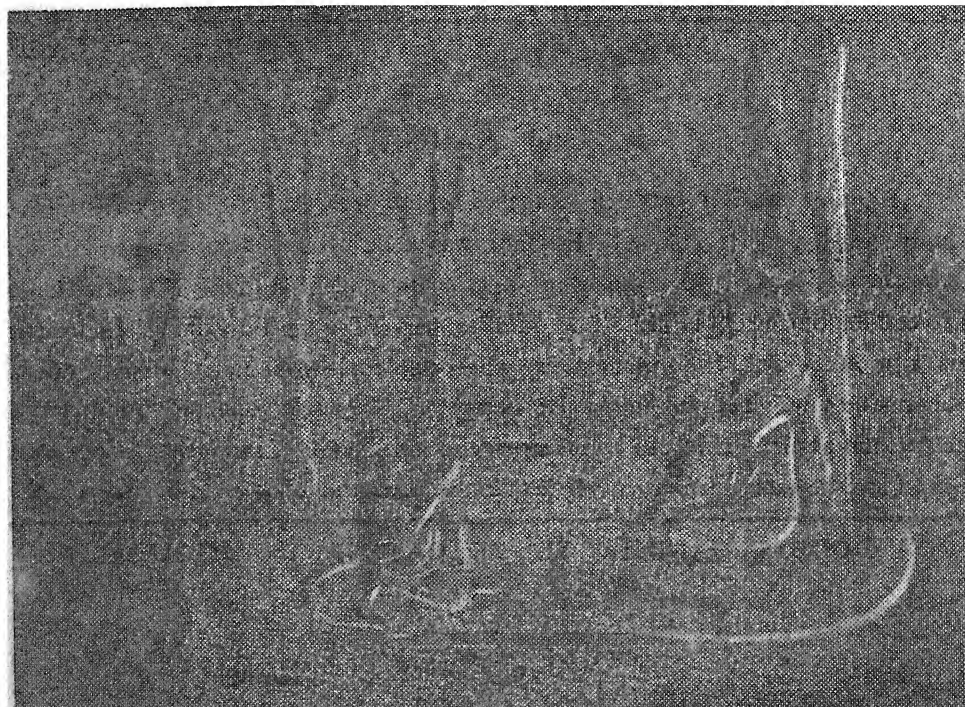
“Dasaradha was a noble and great king. He was born in Ishwaku dynasty. He ruled the country ably. His capital was Ayodhya. His eldest son was Rama too was noble and honourable. In order to uphold and honour his father's desire, Rama though entitled to the throne, left it and was living with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana in Dandakaranya. There Rama killed many Rakshasas. In Janasthana Rama killed fourteen thousand Rakshasas including Khara, Dhushana etc. Upset at this Ravana, the Rakshasa king, deceived Rama and Lakshmana and stole Rama's wife Sita. Rama in his search for Sita, met Sugreeva, the Vanara king, who was in exile. He made friendship with Sugreeva, killed Vali (Sugreeva's brother and king of Kishkindha, the vanara Kingdom) and made Sugreeva, the vanara king, and the ruler of Kishkindha. Sugreeva sent several lakhs of Vanaras (Monkeys), in all directions to trace Sita. I, one among them, on being advised by a bird, sampati, came here to Lanka and saw Sita. She resembles the description which Rama has given. On hearing this, Sita was overjoyed. She lifted her face up and saw Hanuma on the Simsupa tree.



32nd SARGA

Hanuma was in between branches behind dense leaves. He wore loin-cloth. His body was green in colour. His face was red. His eyes were golden in colour. Sita saw him and was afraid. She wept and again looked at him. She saw Hanuma with folded hands bowing to her. She said to her-self "Am I dreaming? In my dream I saw a monkey and I do not know what evil forebades me. Let my Rama and Lakshmana be safe. Let my father be happy". She again pondered over and said to her-self "I am awake. How can I dream, when I am awake? If supposing I have dreamt, how can I see the same even now? He is talking. Let what all he said become true."

DOUBTS HANUMA TO BE RAVANA IN DISGUISE



33rd SARGA

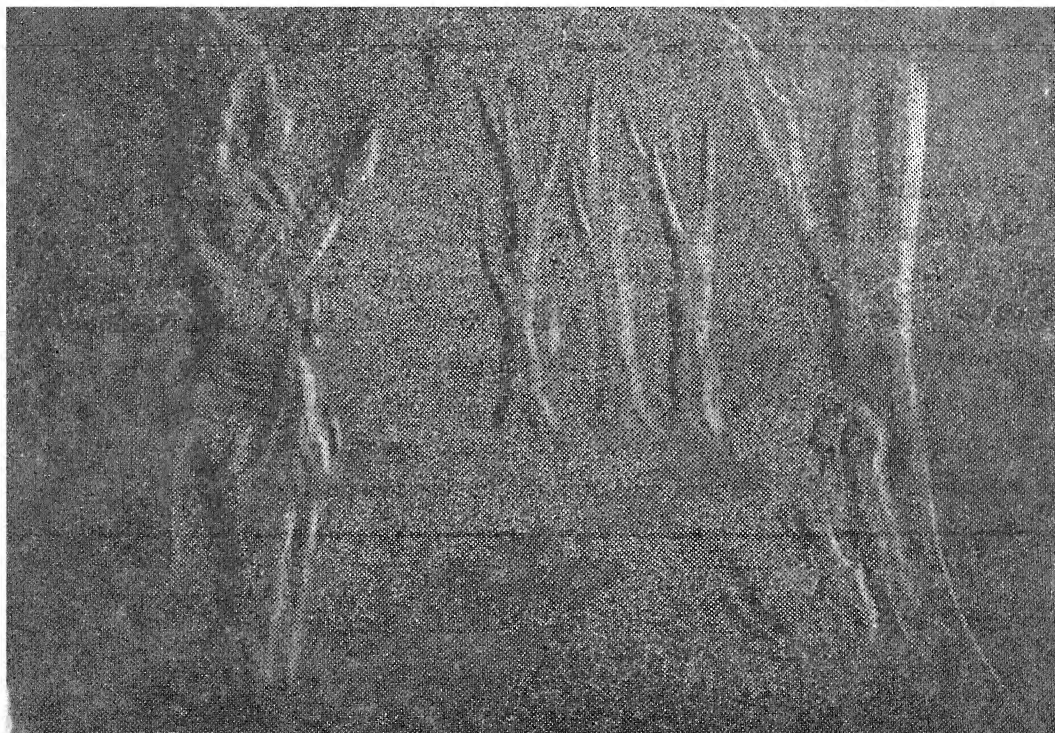
Sensing Sita's mood, Hanuma folded his hands once again in reverence to Sita. He descended to the lower branch of the tree. He then put his both hands on his chin and said in sweet and melodious manner "Oh! Mother I know who you are? you were crying hanging to the branch of the tree. Are you by any chance star Rohini, came here deserting vasishtha Maharshi for any reason? Mother! why are you crying? Has any of your relatives dead? If not, why are you crying like this? To me you seem not to be a goddess. Your resemblance reveals that you belong to kshatriya (who rule the county) community. Are you by any chance the better half of Rama, who killed fourteen thousand Rakshas in Janasthana? Your present plight and your resemblances reveal that you are None-else than Rama's wife Sita. I have no doubt. Please tell me." Sita

HANUMA DESCRIBES RAMA



replied Hanuma “I am the daughter of Janaka, daughter-in-law of Dasaradha, wife of Rama, My name is Sita. After marriage, in my in-law’s place, I lived happily with my husband for 13 years. Then my father-in-law wanted my husband to be the king and ascend the throne. That was settled. Pursuant to the subsequent wish of my father-in-law, my husband, Rama left for ‘Dandakaranya’ to live there for 14 years. I and his brother, Lakshmana followed him. While we were there Ravana, the Rakshasa king, deceived Rama and Lakshmana, stole me and brought me here, I may not live for more than 2 months Ravana has given me the time accordingly.

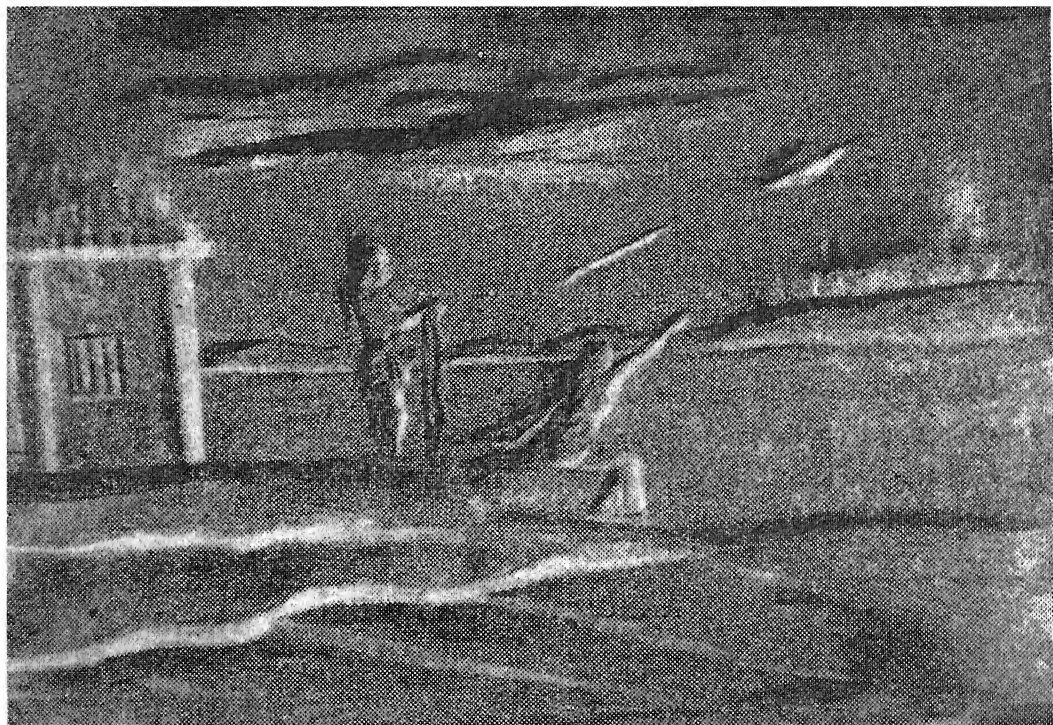
GIVES THE RING



34th SARGA

Hanuman consoled Sita saying "Oh! Mother! I am Rama's servant. I brought his message. Rama and Lakshmana are safe. Lakshmana asked me to convey his respects to you." On hearing the good news Sita was overjoyed and said "Oh! I could hear a very very good news." Meanwhile Hanuma was alighting the tree Sita was afraid. She suspected Ravana might have come in this guise to cheat her. She left the branch of the Simsupa tree and sat underneath. She said "Oh! Ravana once you cheated us all in the guise of a monk and stole me and brought me here. Now you came here as a monkey Stop all this. If you are really the servant of Rama, then describe Rama's qualities which I like most."

HANUMAN'S DIVYARUPAM



Hanuma said Oh! Mother! Rama's strength, might, ability and bravery are that of the rays of Sun. He is tender and affectionate to his people, like moon light. In might, he is only Lord Vishnu. Ravana stole you from him deceitfully and you will see shortly that he is punished suitably for his folly. Rama is very sad and bitterly feeling your absence. For your sake Vanara King Sugreeva will bring his entire army to Lanka. So far they do not know that you are here. I flew across the sea and came here. Please don't take me as Ravana. Please believe me."

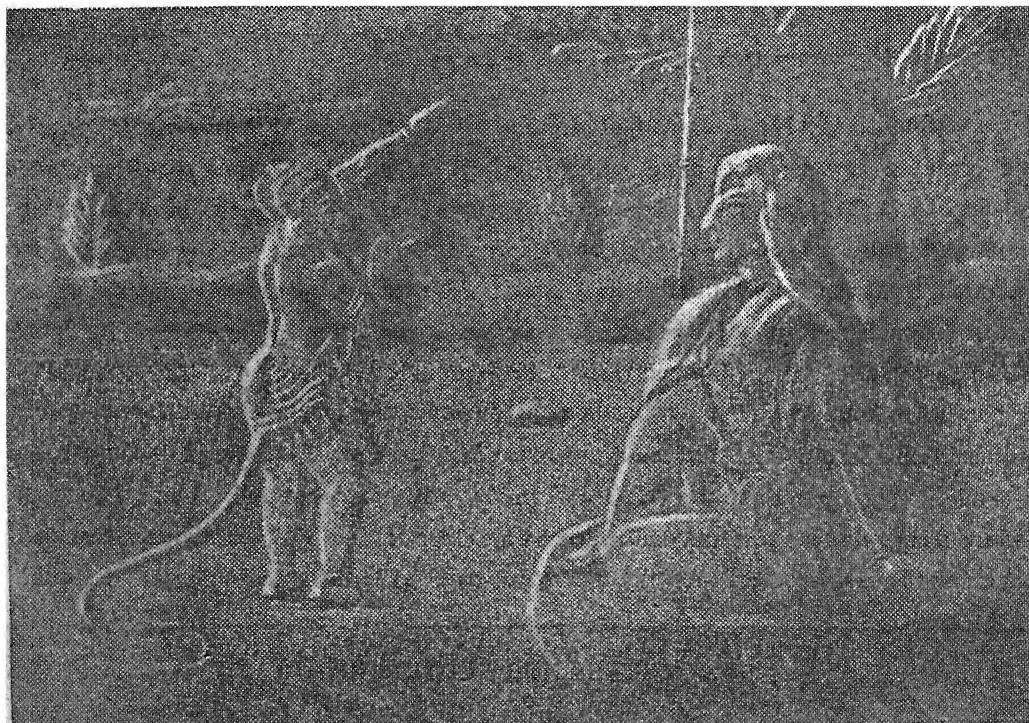
SITA SPEAKS



35th SARGA

Sita heard what Hanuma had said and asked "How could Rama meet Vanaras and come to any understanding with them What are the features of Rama and Lakshmana? Please tell me". Hanuma, thereupon, said "Rama is the most beautiful, pious and noble personality. His complexion is sky blue. In wisdom he is equal to Maharshi Brihaspathi who is the guru of Gods. In patience, he can be compared to the earth. Rama is truthful. He believes in one word, one arrow and one wife. He fights evil to perpetuate justice, good and truth. He is an authority on all the Vedas. There is no parallel to him in archery. His brother Lakshmana is also identical in all respects to his brother Rama Except the complexion difference, both are equals. Lakshmana's complexion is white. While searching for you, they came to 'Rishyamuka' hill. There, Sugreeva, Vanara King, who was insulted and exiled by his elder brother Vali, was living. I carried Rama and Lakshmana on my shoulders and have taken them to Sugreeva. I am the

SITA GIVES HER CHUDAMANI



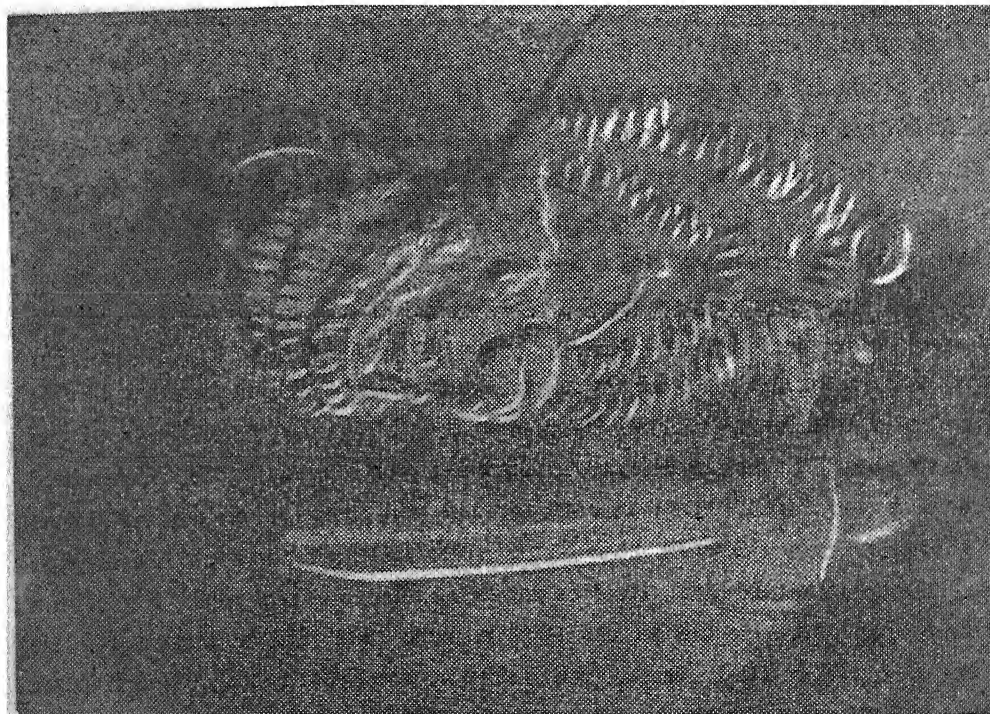
minister of Sugreeva. I saw to it that Sugreeva and Rama made a friendship treaty. Rama kept up his word, killed Vali and made Sugreeva, the King of Kishkindah. Sugreeva sent several lakhs of Vanaras in search of you in all directions. Sugreeva showed Rama the ornaments which you dropped when Ravana had stolen you and was taking you away. On seeing the ornaments Rama felt very very sad. I was one among those who came to southern side in search of you. On the advice of a bird called Sampati, I flew across the one hundred Yojanas Ocean. I came to Lanka. I saw you. I am the servant of Rama. I was born due to the blessing of Lord Vayu. My mother is 'Anjana' and father is 'Kesari'. Oh! Mother! have faith in me. Believe me. I told all this to convince you. Hard days are over to you. Don't worry any longer. Be bold. You are going to meet your Rama very shortly." These words soothed Sita and she felt elated.

HANUMA WANTS SITA TO COME AWAY WITH HIM



36th SARGA

Hanuma, came down from the Simsupa tree stood in front of Sita and further said "Oh! Mother! I am a Vanara. I am the servant of Rama. Please see this golden ring of Rama and take it. Sita took the ring. It was Rama's. Her joy knew no bounds. She felt as if she was in the presence of Rama. She exclaimed Oh! Hanuma! you are great in thought as well as in deed. No one is equal to you. You could cross one hundred Yojanas sea, enter Lanka fearlessly without being detected by any one and see me. You are not an ordinary monkey. My Rama will not trust and depute ordinary ones to me. Now please tell me. Are Rama and Lakshmana safe? I hope Rama is not too much grieved for me. Is there any news from Bharata? Will the brothers be able to relieve me of this ordeal shortly? Hanuma said "Oh! Mother! Rama does not know that you are here. If necessary Rama with his will-power can see that the ocean is dried up and take you back. I take an oath and tell you that you are destined to meet Rama shortly. I cannot describe how Rama is feeling the separation. His misery is intense. He does not take bath. He does not even bother to offer prayers. He does not also take proper food, He always chants your name 'Sita' 'Sita' no other word. He does not sleep, If at all he sleeps, even in sleep he utters your name. "Thus Hanuma described how Rama was feeling the separation from sita.



37th SARGA

Sita said "Oh! Hanuma! Son of Vayu! your words are sweet in one way to me and bitter on the other. "Oh! what a cruel fate! Rama, who is the mightiest, had to undergo this ordeal. You please go early and come back with Rama, There is only two months time. Ravana will not leave me. Lanka is nothing before Rama's might." Hanuma said "Oh! Mother! Rama will certainly come with Vanara Army and take you back. I will fly across the sea and take you to Rama. These Rakshasas cannot do anything to me. Sita was astonished and said "Oh! Hanuma! you have proved to be a monkey. You are so small. How can you take me on your back " Hanuma felt humiliated. He reacted by enlarging his body attaining a stature of the Meru hill He then said 'Oh! Mother! I can carry not only you, but I can pull this Lanka out with its foundations and can carry it in tact to Rama.'" Sita was astonished at the gigantic figure in her front. Hanuman was literally touching the stars in his stature. She said "Oh! Hanuma! you are great indeed. You are capable of doing what all you had said. But I cannot come with you. I cannot sustain your speed. Apart from that I cannot touch other males, Ravana touched me while I was unconscious. I cannot accompany you as it damages my husband's self-respect. In all fairness he should personally solve the problem, with Ravana. I, therefore, suggest you to bring Rama here at the earliest Let him kill Ravana and take me back."



38th SARGA

Hanuma was immensely happy at Sita's words. He said "Mother! it is befitting of you to say such words. Others cannot say like that. You are a devoted wife to an ideal husband, The reasons assigned by you are valid I ventured to suggest only on two counts. Firstly, I could not see your misery and secondly on account of my loyalty to Rama Since you are not agreeable to come, please give me an item which I can produce before Rama evidencing my witnessing you " Sita then said "You recall to Rama's memory the episode on chitrakuta hill, In order to punish a crow, by name Jayanta, which was teasing me, Rama had taken a small grass piece, chanted a mantra and left it. The grass piece had attained the shape of a mighty weapon (Brahma Astra) and followed the crow. The crow roamed around the world to escape from it. Finding no one to rescue it from Brahma Astra, the crow came back fell on the feet of Rama and prayed for Pardon. Rama then asked the crow to surrender one of its two eyes to the weapon. The crow accordingly did and got its life spared. Rama had used Brahma Astra on a crow because it teased me and I wonder why he is keeping quiet on all these Rakshasas. No god can face Rama in any warfare. How can Rakshasas stand before him? Hanuma said "they do not know where you are. They will certainly come to Lanka, kill Ravana and other Rakshasas, destroy Lanka and take you back, Please do not worry." Sita then said "Please convey that I enquired about the welfare of all. Tell them that I cannot live for more than two months. Please go quickly and get Rama early".



39th SARGA

Thus saying, she took out from her hair a precious ornament made of a jewel called Chudamani. This was an ornament worn on the head. She gave it to Hanuma and said "Hanuma! please give this as another proof of you having seen me. On seeing this he will remember me, Dasaratha and my father Janaka. Hanuma; can the vanaras cross this big ocean?" Hanuma said "mother! the vanaras in Sugreeva's army are mighty and can travel speedily than air in the sky. I am less stronger than they are. They can cross the sea and come over. I shall carry Rama and Lakshmana on my shoulders. You need not doubt. I shall go.

JAMBUMALI COMES TO FIGHT



40th SARGA

Hanuma was about to leave. Then Sita again said "Hanuma! please remember Rama the crow affair that occurred on Chitrakuta hill. I shall tell you another incident which you may tell Rama. Once my Vermilion on the forehead had become light. When I was about apply Vermilion Rama came and said "wait I shall apply". So saying he applied it on my cheek for funs sake. I was separated from my so dear and loving husband. I am most unfortunate. How soon you will be able to bring them and relieve me of the suffering? Please bring Rama early. "She wept again and said" Why not you stay here for a day more? I shall have courage and forget the sorrow". Hanuma consoled her, took the Chudamani and decided to return.



41st SARGA

Sita blessed him and permitted him to return. Hanuma while leaving that place said to himself "I have almost finished my work. A very little is left. These Rakshasas will not yield for other means, except war. I shall not act in a manner prejudicial to what I had done so far. I shall do something to assess the strength of these Rakshasas. For that, I shall destroy this beautiful Ashoka garden. Thereby I get an opportunity to fight these Rakshasas and gauge their strength." He thought that way and began uprooting the trees. He destroyed the beautiful garden like wild fire. As a result of the havoc caused, birds flew away Ponds, lakes and other places seriously damaged. Almost all the trees excepting the tree where Sita was sitting, were destroyed. After doing all that, Hanuma went to the entrance gate of Ashoka garden, expecting some Rakshasas to come to fight, and sat on the arch of the entrance gate.



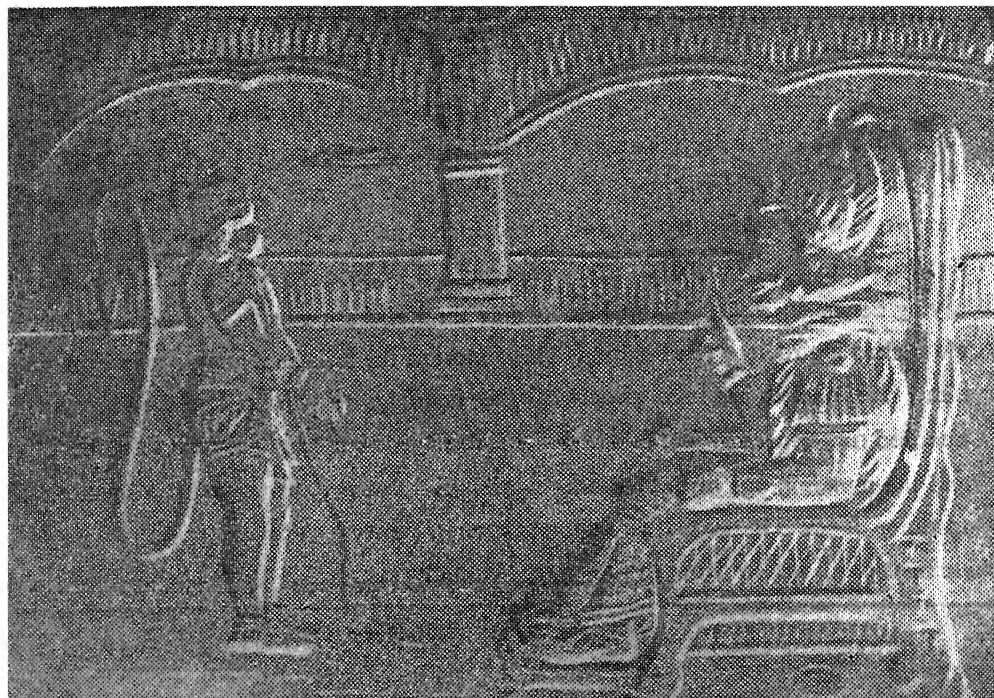
42nd SARGA

At the destruction of Ashoka garden and the consequent furore, the Rakshas women woke up and saw Hanuma. They went to Sita and asked her "Who is he? Where from he has come? Did he talk to you? If so, what did he talk to you?" They demanded an answer and Sita replied "Snakes know about the whereabouts of snakes. Rakshasa tricks should be known to Rakshasas only. I am also afraid like you." They went to Ravana and reported that a ferocious monkey had come and caused havoc to the Ashoka garden. They told that excepting one tree where Sita was sitting, rest of the trees were uprooted and are spoiled. Ravana was greatly annoyed. He sent eighty thousand Rakshasa warriors to kill Hanuma. They came with all weapons to fight Hanuma. Hanuma saw them and roared and said in a loud voice so that all of them can hear 'I am a servant of Rama. I am the Minister of Sugreeva the Vanara King. I can kill thousand Ravana's very easily. I will destroy your Lanka. There after I will bow to Sita and cross the sea and go back to Rama. My name is Hanuma.'" He took a big steel girder of the entrance gate. With it he fought the eighty thousand Rakshasas and killed most of them. The remaining fled in fear of life and reported the matter to Ravana.



43th SARGA

Hanuma, thereafter, went to 'Chaitya Prasada' building. He went up, sat there and said in a loud voice "Rama and Lakshmana are the mightiest. Sugreeva is the king of Vanaras. I am Hanuman. I am a servant of Rama. There are several Vanaras in our army much more stronger and mightier than me. All of them will come and destroy Lanka. Your Ravana will not live long. I shall destroy Lanka and go away." So saying he smashed that building and killed the Rakshasa guards who came to attack him. He picked a girder of the building, killed most of the Rakshasa guards who came to attack him. He picked another girder of the building, turned it round and round for one hundred times speedily and left it in the damaged building. As a result, fire broke out and the remainings of the building were burnt down. After-wards he returned to the entrance of the Ashoka garden and sat there on the arch once again. Some guards who escaped death ran to Ravana to report the matter.



44th SARGA

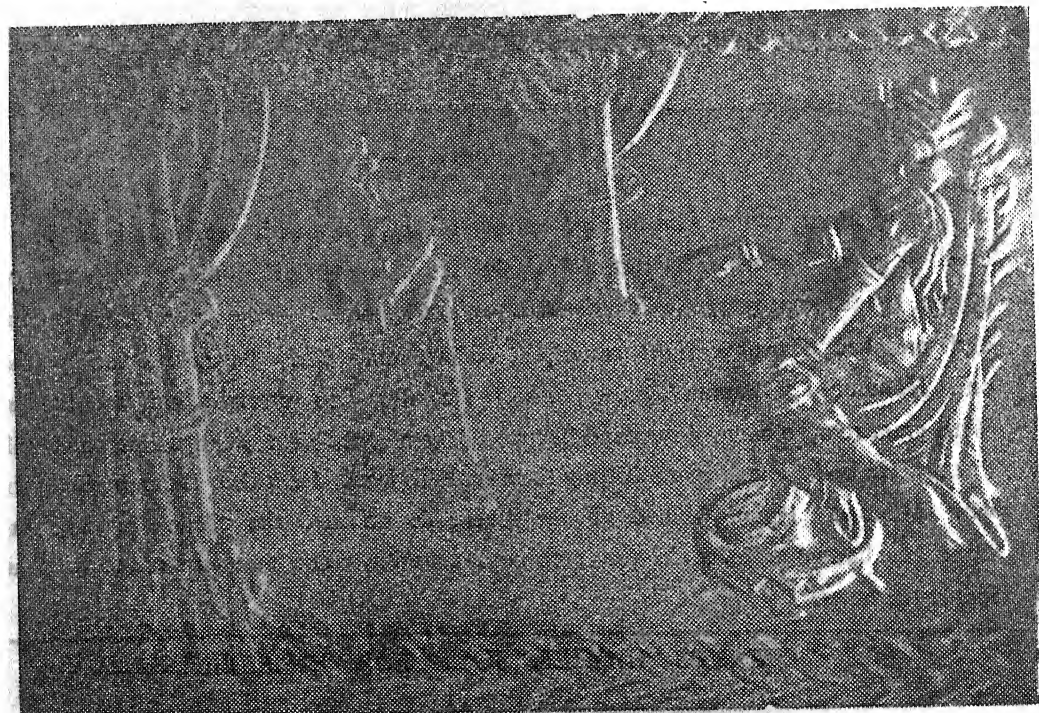
Ravana on hearing the news was furious and sent Jambumali son of Prahasta, to fight Hanuma. Jambumali with a big bow and arrows came on a chariot followed by an army to the gate of Ashoka garden. Hanuma again roared. Jambumali hit Hanuma with arrows. Hanuma was annoyed. He took a big stone with both the hands and threw it at Jambumali. Jambumali hit the stone with arrows on the way. Hanuma threw a big tree which was also met half way by the arrows of Jambumali. He then had taken the steel girder of the entrance gate once again, turned it round and round and threw it with great speed at Jambumali. It killed Jambumali instantaneously. He collected the girder again, fought the army with it and killed most of the army. He came back to entrance arch and sat there. The survivors had fled to report the matter to Ravana.



45th SARGA

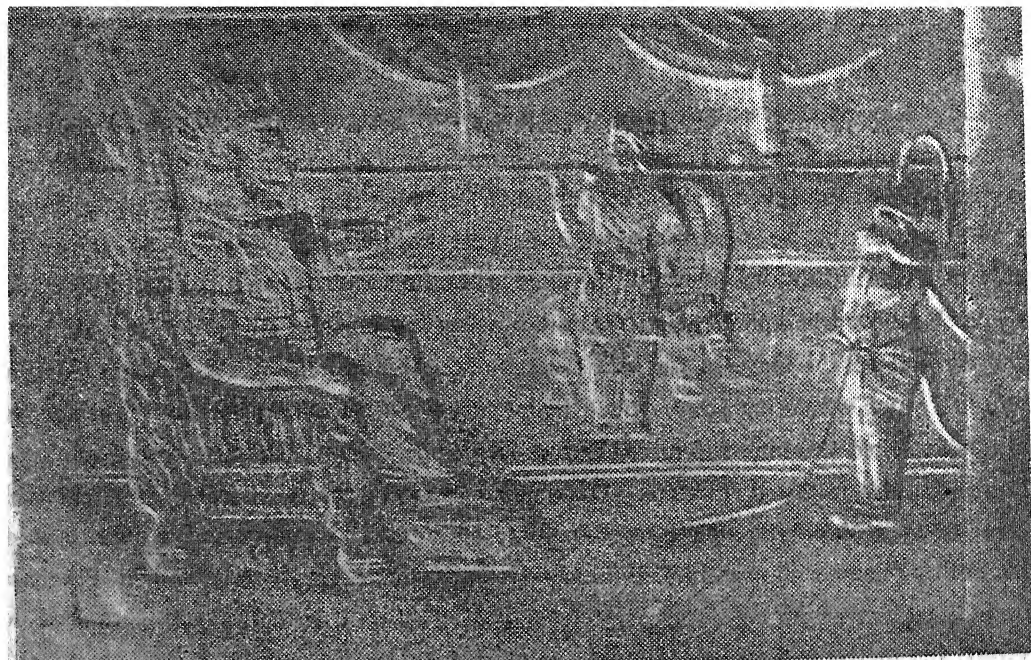
Ravana came to know that Jambumali was killed with most of the army. His anger knew no bounds. He summoned the seven sons of his ministers, who were very strong, brave and mighty. He sent them to fight Hanuma. They came with a big army and attacked Hanuma right round, encircling him. They began showering arrows on Hanuma. Hanuma grew wild. He flew up straight on to the sky. With great roar he came down and hit two of them with right hand Palms and killed them. He killed another two hitting them with his legs. He killed the remaining three with fist blow. Having killed all the seven, he smashed the army. Inviting more fights, he had gone back to the arch and sat on it. The survivors ran to Ravana to report the news.

MAKES HIGHER SEAT FOR HIMSELF



46th SARGA

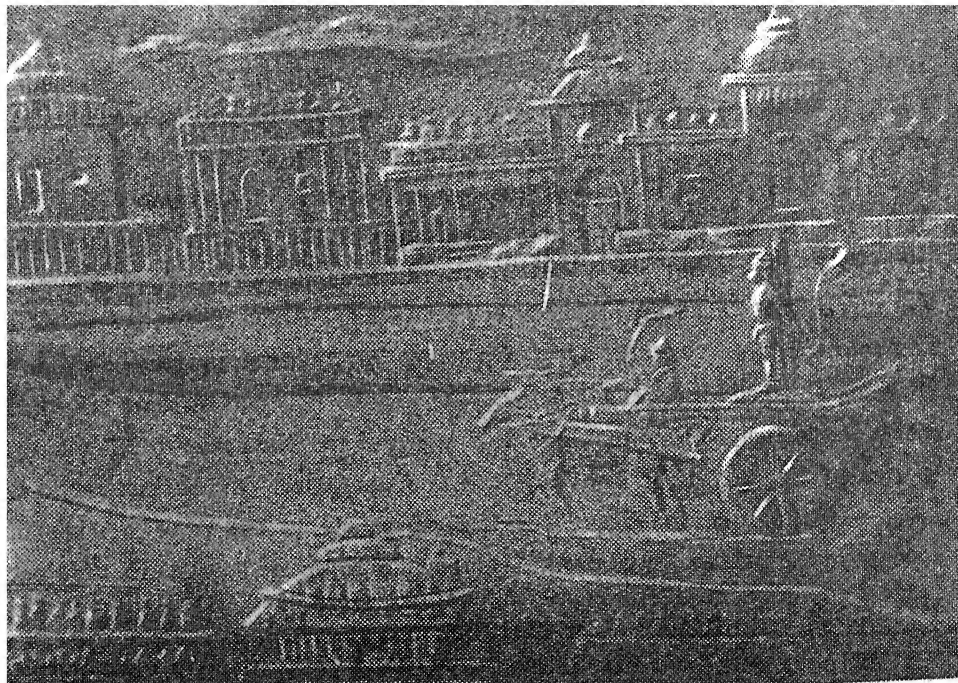
Ravana then sent word for his commanders Virupaksha Khasakarna, Yupaksha, Durdhara and Praghasa. These five Rakshasas are well known for their bravery and might. He ordered them "You go immediately and get that monkey here as a prisoner. I do not think that he is an ordinary monkey. Perhaps Indra might have made a powerful demon and sent it as a monkey. All the gods, and others were defeated by me. I know Sugreeva, Jambavantha and Neela. They do not possess so much of strength. You are reputed throughout the universe for your might and capabilities. Even the gods are afraid of you. You go with a big army, defeat the monkey get it here as a prisoner. "They accordingly attacked Hanuma and rained arrows fiercely at him, Hanuma rose to the sky. Durdhara also followed Hanuma. Hanuma attacked Durdhara and killed him. Hanuma came down. Yupaksha and Virupaksha attacked him. Hanuma picked a big tree and hit both of them with it and killed them. Hanuma thereafter fiercely fought Praghasa and Ghasakarna with big stones. He then smashed the army. The survivors fled to report the matter to Ravana. Hanuma went back to the arch and sat on it.



47th SARGA

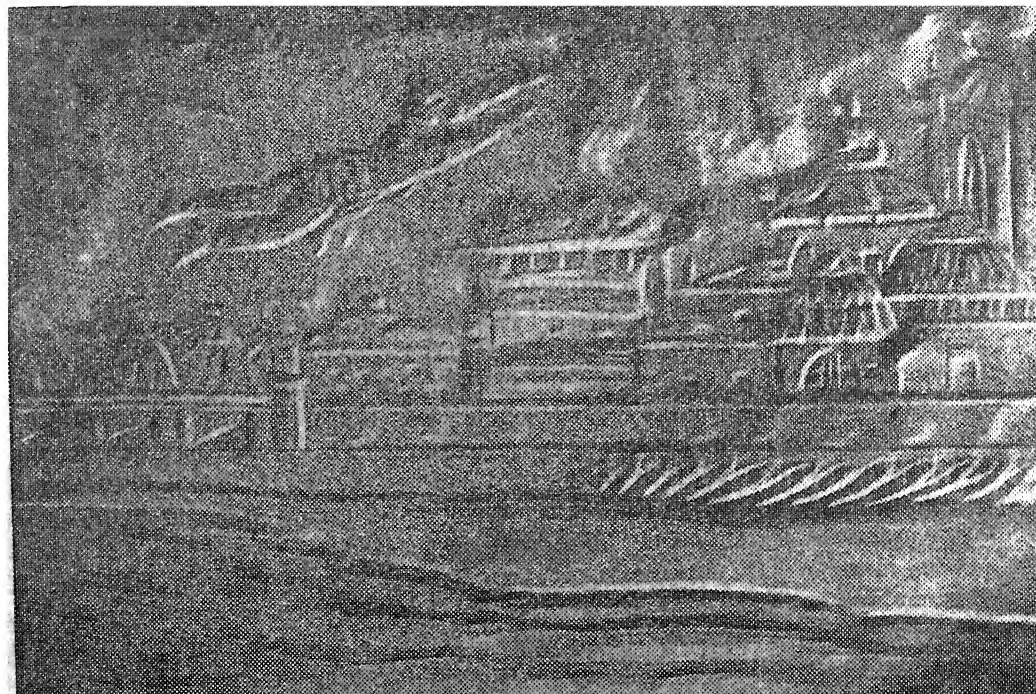
On hearing the news of the death of the commanders, Akshakumara, the youngest son of Ravana, was prepared to fight Hanuma. Ravana felt happy and sent him. Akshakumara sat on a chariot and came with an army to fight Hanuma. He was surprised how such a small monkey could cause such a havoc. He sent in a spate of powerful arrows. Hanuma was furious and starred at Akshakumara. They began fighting. Hanuma escaped the arrows and rose to the sky. Akshakumara too rose to the sky with the chariot. He shot arrows at Hanuma with-out any let-up. Hanuma was surprised at the ability and accuracy of Akshakumara. He wanted to spare Akshakumara because of his tender age. On seeing his ability Hanuma decided it otherwise. He came down and hit Akshakumara's chariot powerfully and damaged it. Akshakumara miraculously escaped unhurt. He took a sword and flew nearer to Hanuma. Hanuma descended slightly, caught hold of Akshakumara by feet turned him round and round about one hundred times and hit him powerfully to the earth. Askhakumara hit straight to the earth and was dead. Hanuma destroyed the army. He went back to the arch and sat on it.

RAVANA ORDERS TO PUNISH ACCORDING TO VIBHISHANA'S SUGGESTION



48th SARGA

Ravana was sad at the death of his son Aksha Kumara. He then called his eldest son, Indrajit and told him "My son! you are the powerful in the entire universe! You defeated Lord Indra, the king of gods and got your name Indrajit. (meaning the victor of Indra.) None can match you in archery. That monkey is not an ordinary one. Lot of our powerful people have died in its hands. Be careful. Know your strength defeat the monkey. Get it as a prisoner here. I am entrusting the job to you, as I happened to be the king and as a king I should go last. Otherwise I myself would have gone and sorted out " Indrajit sat on a chariot and approached the arch fast with a big army. Hanuma and Indrajit began the war which was frightening. All the gods were



49th SARGA

Hanuma was taken to Ravana's court Hall. He saw Ravana sitting on a throne embedded with various precious stones. His crown was most beautiful made up of gold, costliest Jewels, pearls and other precious stones. He wore a white silk dress. His body was full of red sandal wood paste. He was seen with ten heads and twenty hands. His body was black. He adorned a white pearl necklance. He wore golden shoulder guards. The throne was red in colour. Women on either side stood waving fans. His ministers prahasta, Mahaparsva, Durhadhara and Kumbha were seated in their appropriate seats. Hanuma Saw Ravana in all his pomp and grandeur.

Hanuman was stunned on seeing Ravana, who was sturdy and shapeful and who shone like mid-day sun. Hanuma thought to himself "Ravana is an authority on vedas. He is the greatest diplomat and is an authority on administration too. He is the greatest worshipper of Lord Siva. He lifted on his back the Kailasa hill - abode of Lord Siva. But for his vice of womanisation, he is befitting to rule the entire universe with his might. He can plunage the entire world in the sea if he wants."



50th SARGA

Ravana looked at Hanuma and said to himself "who is this? Is he Nandikesa, who cursed me on Kailasa? Or is he Banasura in disguise of monkey?" Then he called his minister Prahasta and told him to find out from Hanuma "who is he? why did he come here? why did he scare the Rakshasa women guards, Why did he destroy the Ashoka Garden?" Then Prahasta came near Hanuma and asked "Vanara! Don't be afraid? Tell the truth. who has sent you here? Is it Indra? Or Yama? or Varuna? Or Kubera? or is it Vishnu himself? You are in the guise of a monkey. We suspect that you are not a real monkey. Tell the truth. If you tell lies, you will be punished.

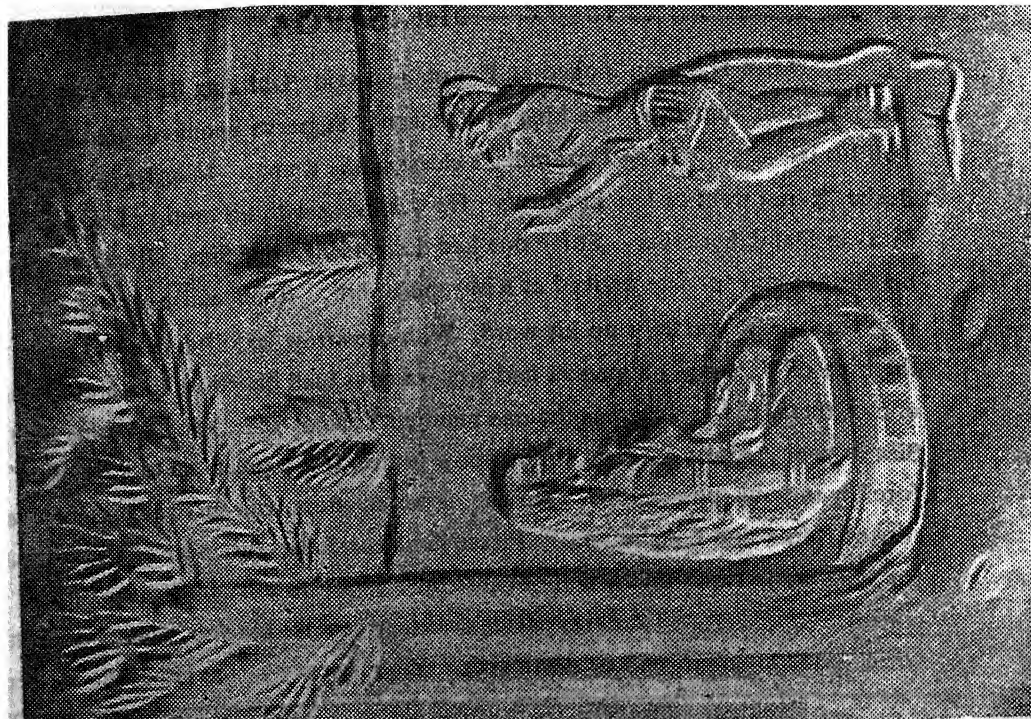
"Hanuma replied" Oh ! Sir ! None of the gods had sent me here. I did not come in any disguise. I am a monkey. I wanted to see the Rakshasa King, Ravana. I felt it impossible in the normal circumstances. So I destroyed your garden. I Killed Rakshasas in self-defence. None can defeat me, due to a boon of Lord Brahma. I came here as emissary of Rama. Let me say a few words beneficial to you all. Please hear."

PUTTING OFF THE FIRE



51st SARGA

Then Hanuma looked at Ravana and said 'Oh! king Ravana ! I have a message for you from Sugreeva, the king of Vanaras. Sugreeva enquired your welfare. I tell you his message. King Dasaradha's eldest son is Rama. In order to fulfil his father's desire, Rama went to live in forests. He was living with his brother Lakshmana and wife Sita. in Dandakaranya. Some one had deceitfully stole Sita. Rama and Lakshmana, on their search for Sita arrived at Rishyamuka hill. Rama and Sugreeva made a friendship treaty. Rama kept up his word, With one arrow he killed Vali and made Sugreeva, the king of Vanaras. Sugreeva had sent vanaras in all directions in search of Sita. I am one of them. I flew across the one hundred Yojanas wide sea, and came here. I saw Sita in your Ashoka garden. You know justice. It is a great sin to keep other's woman forcibly in your possession. No one, however great, can survive courting the displeasure of Rama and Lakshmana. Please think carefully, surrender Sita to Rama and live for some more time. Sita will not surrender herself to others. You recall that you have cursed. Humans and vanaras saying that they can not kill you. Sita is a nightmare to you. Your kingdom will be destroyed. Your dynasty is sure to perish on account of



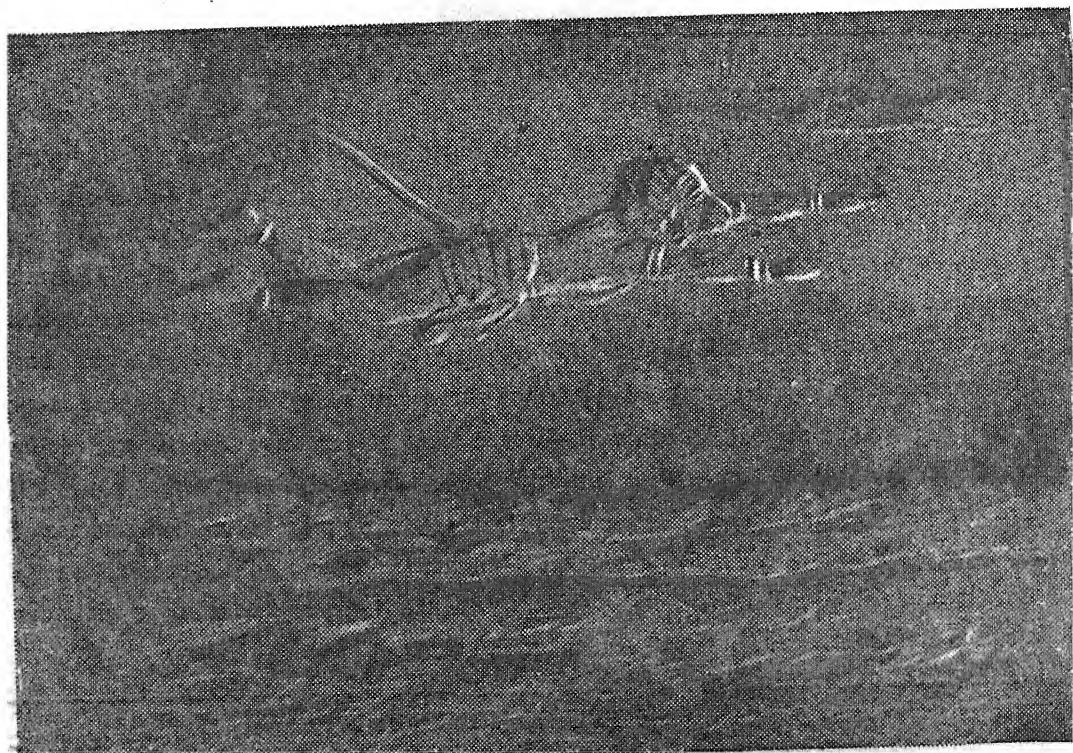
her Rama is equal to Vishnu in might. No one in the entire universe can stand before Rama in a fight and escape alive. Please heed to my advice. Go in the right path. Surrender Sita to Rama and request Rama for pardon. Rama will surely excuse you. He will not say no even to his staunchest enemy approaching him for pardon. If you do not hear me and go in the wrong way you are sure to perish with all your well-wishers." Ravana was greatly annoyed at this talk. He at once ordered that Hanuma to be killed immediately.

SEES SITA ONCE AGAIN



52nd SARGA

Vibhishana, Ravana's brother, having heard the verdict of Ravana stood up and said "Oh ! Great man ! please hear me, Under any circumstances the lives of the emissaries are spared. The verdict is contrary to justice. You know everything. Please, therefore, give a token punishment to him, spare his life and leave him" Ravana continued to be furious. Vibhishana added "There are four ways to punish emissaries. They are (1) to chop off a limb (2) whipping (3) Shaving the head clean and (4) causing burn injuries on the body. You punish him in any one of the above four ways. He is a sub-ordinate of others. He repeated what he was asked to say. So he cannot be found fault with. You better kill those who had sent him here. If you kill him the news will not reach the enemy. Thereby you are perpetrating the existence of the enemy. You will be depriving yourself of the opportunity to kill the enemy. Please therefore punish him lightly and thereafter try to kill Rama and Lakshmana with your might." Ravana saw reason in the arguments and relented.



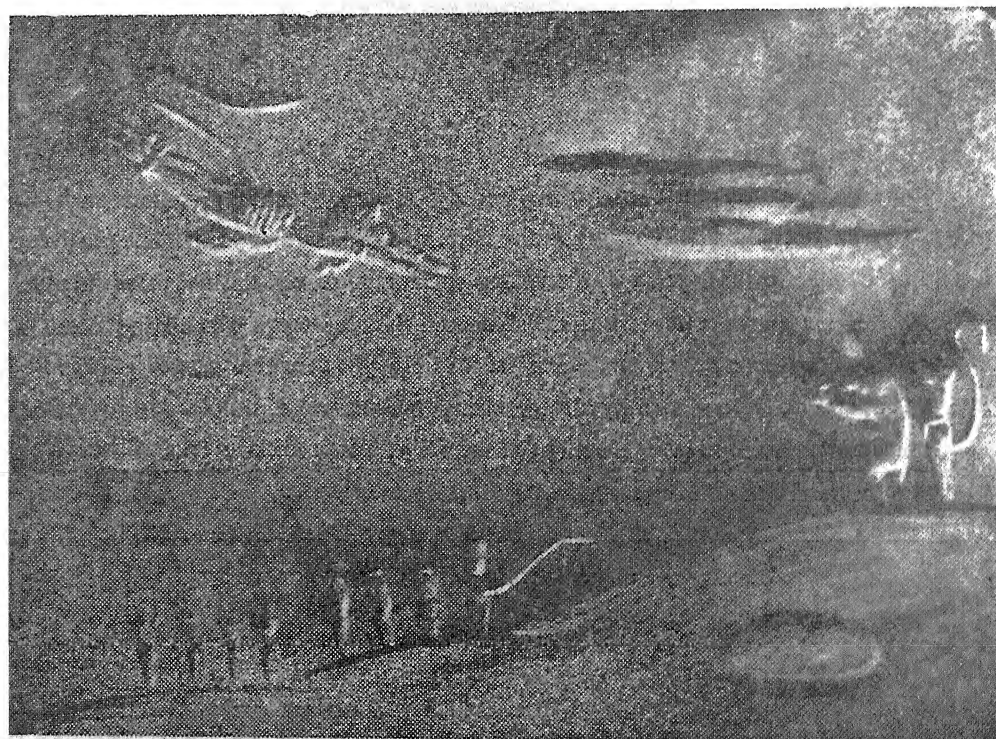
53rd SARGA

Ravana said "Monkeys have a fancy for their tails. Put fire to this monkey's tail. With his tail burning exhibit him in the city and leave him." In deference to the above order, Rakshasas draped oil wet clothes round the tail of Hanuma and put fire to it. With the tail burning with flame, Hanuma was taken round the city of Lanka. Old and young Rakshasas came out into the streets to witness the scene. Hanuma said to him-self "I can let loose, these strings, kill these Rakshasas and go away. But I shall wait. Last night I saw Lanka post-haste. Now let me see it clearly in broad day light and know the enemy strongholds. I shall put up and better not care the abuses and insults hurled on me." Meanwhile, the Rakhasa soldiers, announcing Hanuma as a spy to the gatherings, took him from place to place. A few Rakhasa women who saw all this ran to Sita and told her that Hanuma with his tail on flames was being taken to exhibit throughout Lanka. Sita was very much distressed at this.

Sita immediately made some fire, offered prayers and appealed "Oh! Lord Agni! If I had served my husband, Faithfully and loyally, if I am sincere to my husband, if my



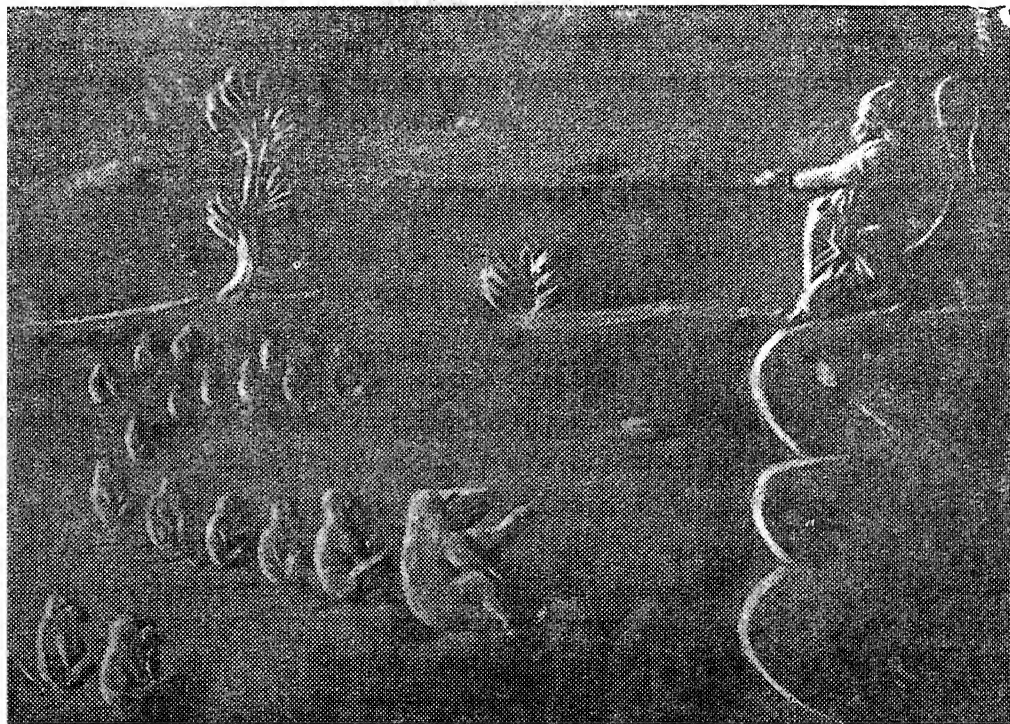
Rama has any sympathy left for me, and if I have any luck of reunion with Rama still left with me, you shall not cause any harm to Hanuma and your flames shall be cool to him." Due to these prayers, the flames on Hanuma's tail did not trouble Hanuma at all, and the flames were cool to him. Hanuma thought that it was due to Sita's blessings. He was very happy. Later, when he was brought near the gate of Lanka, he contracted his body. Immediately all the strings became loose, slipped and have fallen down. Hanuma became free. He enlarged his body. He took a steel girder of the gate and with it he killed the accompanying Rakshasa soldiers.



54th SARGA

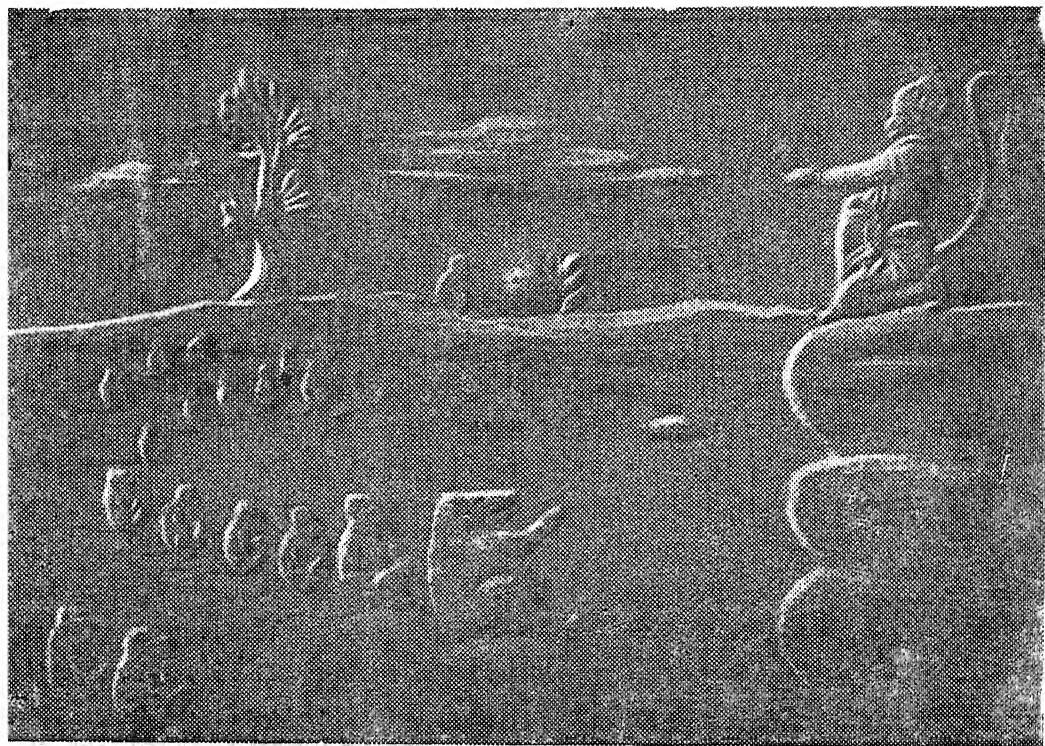
Having got himself relieved of the bonds and killed the Rakshasa soldiers, Hanuma was in a fierce mood and said to himself ‘I have destroyed the Ashoka garden, a dearer place to Ravana. I have also killed a sizeable strength of Rakshasas. With the fire they lit my tail which is still in flame, I shall burn the entire Lanka. Then only, I suppose to have accomplished Rama’s assignment perfectly.’ He began flying from building to building lighting all the buildings with fire. Soon Lanka was in flames. The building of Vibhishana was spared by Hanuma. Meanwhile heavy breeze started and almost all the Lanka was in flames. Women, men, old and small came out into streets and were running here and there for safety. Burnt out houses began collapsing. Rakshasas had apprehensions that some god who was an enemy of Rakshasas must have come in the guise of a monkey and reduced Lanka into shambles. Hanuma after playing havoc in Lanka Flew to TRIKUTA hill stood on its peak and observed how LANKA was burning. All the gods who were robbing from the sky, praised Hanuma for his feat.

LANDING ON RETURN



55th SARGA

Hanuma went down the hill to the sea shore and dipped his tail into sea water and put off the flame on his tail. He once again saw the burning Lanka. Suddenly Sita came into his mind. He was shocked and was nervous saying "Oh! what a blunder I did in my anger. There is not even a place without being burnt in Lanka. in that total devastation, Sita might have been burnt alive and perished" I had in the fury caused a major calamity. With what face can I now go and tell Rama and Lakshmana about all what had happened. How should I explain the matter to Sugreeva and others. If I report Sita's death, Rama, Lakshmana and others will commit suicide. The Ishwaku dynasty will end. Seeing that vanara race also cannot survive, what a senseless act did I do hastily. I shall jump into the sea and die." He decided but immediately he had good omens. On second thought he said to himself "At Sita's mercy only, the flame on my tail became cold. She is none-else than fire. How can fire harm her? With the mercy of Rama the sea has co-operated. How can Agni (fire) harm Rama's wife". Gradually he came to his normal mood. Suddenly he Over heard the conversation of the gods above who were saying "Oh! It is a great surprise! Lanka is totally burnt. But flames did not go to the place where Sita was sitting. She is safe. This is very strange." Hanuma was over whelmed with joy.



56th SARGA

Hanuma entered Ashoka Garden jubilantly. Sita was safe sitting under the Simsupa tree. Hanuma bowed to Sita. Sita said "Hanuma ! you are great ! You can do anything to achieve the goal. You are dreadful to the enemy. Please get my Rama quickly." Hanuma replied "Mother ! I am going. I shall soon return with your Rama and orthers. Please permit me to leave." Hanuma left her and went to Trikuta Hill. He was anxious to go to Rama immediately and inform the whereabouts of Sita. He was in a hurry. The Trikuta hill was unable to sustain his weight and hurried preparation for take off. He pooled up his energy, With a great roar he leaped with all his strength and flew to the sky. He began to fly and cross the ocean towards Mahendragirl.

EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED



57th SARGA

Hanuma was flying over the sea, as if a ship in an ocean. He was moving like a moon on the sky. He was immensely happy. Occasionally he used to roar very loud out of sheer joy, announcing his name and the job he did. On the way he touched Mainaka again and was fast racing towards the coast. His joy knew no bounds. When he was nearing shore, he constantly twisted his tail, made big roars. Angada, Jambavantha and others who were sitting on Mahendragiri heard the roars. They expected Hanuma's return. Jambavantha sensed the sounds and predicted that Hanuma was returning after seeing Sita. They were happy and went to the peak to receive Hanuma. Hanuma landed on Mahendragiri like another big hill. Angada and Jambavantha welcomed him. Hanuma sat on a big boulder and the rest sat nearby. Hanuma said "I saw Sita. She was in Lanka. She is in a pitiable condition." All the vanaras were immensely happy at this good news. They praised Hanuma and asked for details.

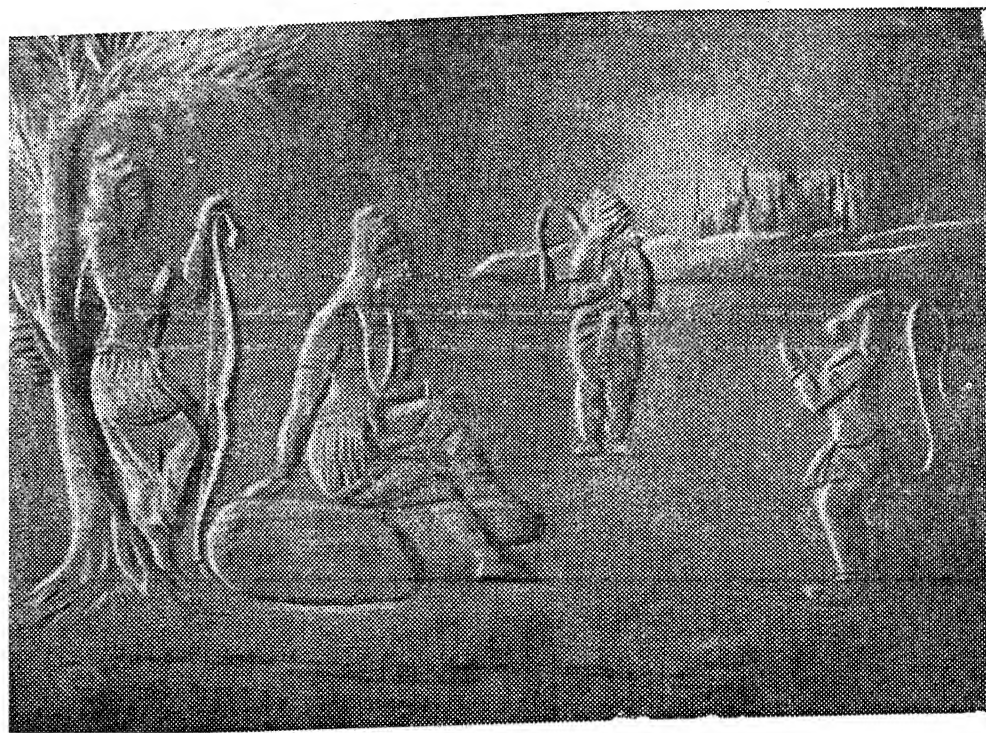
PACIFIES ANGADA



58th SARGA

Hanuma sat comfortably on the boulder. Jambavantha asked Hanuma "Hanuma ! How did you go ? How is Sita ? What is the opinion of Ravana on her? What did you do? Tell us in detail. We shall then decide further course of action expected of us". Hanuma chanted Rama and Sita and said what all had, happened in minute detail. He concluded saying "Due to Rama's greatness and with the well-wishes of you all, I could perform this task for Sugreeva. You have to do the rest."

MADHUVANA DESTRUCTION



59th SARGA

Hanuma added "Friends! Sugreeva's mission is successful. As soon as I saw Sita, I felt very sad for her, at her miserable plight. Ravana is not an ordinary Rakshasa. He can reduce the entire universe to ashes if he so desired. He touched Sita when he was stealing her. In spite of it, he could survive. You can, therefore, understand how much power he gained out of meditation. Sita is pure. Sita treats her husband as God. What Agni cannot do, Sita can do. I can destroy Ravana and Lanka. You are equally capable of it. None of you are less stronger. What all was to be done, I did. I told them of our strength, Might and Calibre. I destroyed their Ashoka garden. I killed a considerable strength of Rakshasas. I burnt down Lanka. Sita is guarded by Rakshasa women and is in a sorrowful state always lamenting for Rama. You all decide what is to be done now in the matter.

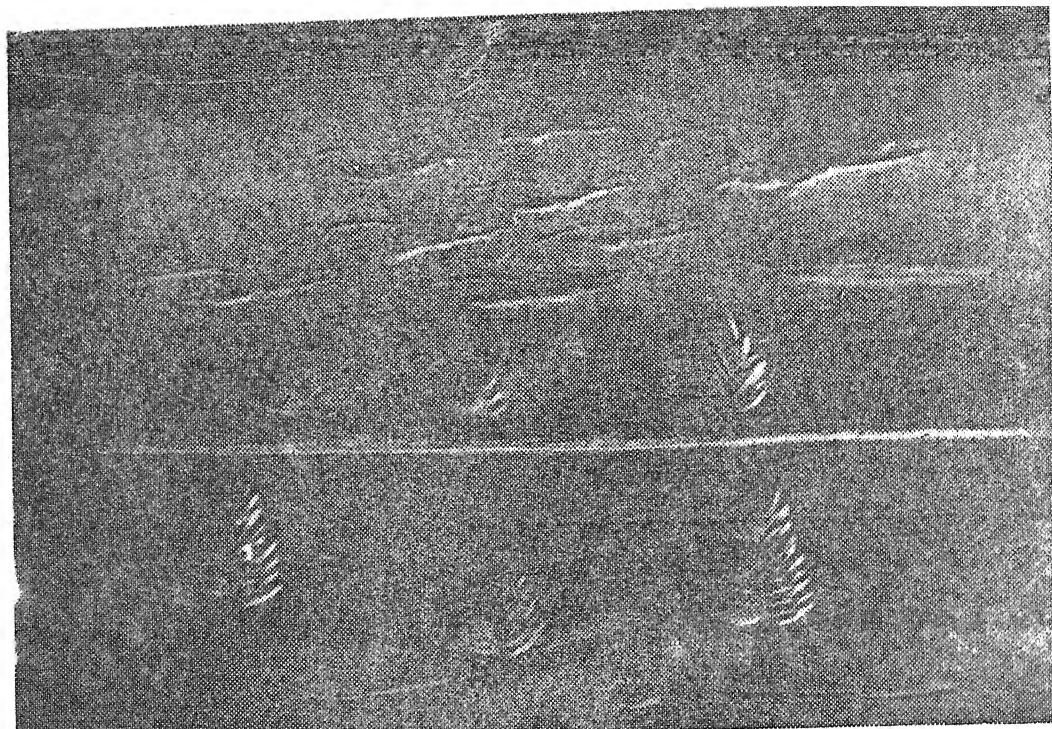
DADHIMUKHA AT SUGREEVA'S FEET



60th SARGA

After hearing Hanuma, Angada, son of Vali and the prince of Vanaras stood up and said "Vanaras ! Sita is found. But she is not rescued. I don't think it right to go to Sugreeva without rescuing her. We better go to Lanka, kill the Rakshasas and bring Sita." Jambavantha said "Angada ! it is not advisable. Let us go and tell Rama what all we know about Sita. We shall thereafter act according to his direction. We better not be hasty." Angada and all others agreed with Jambavantha.

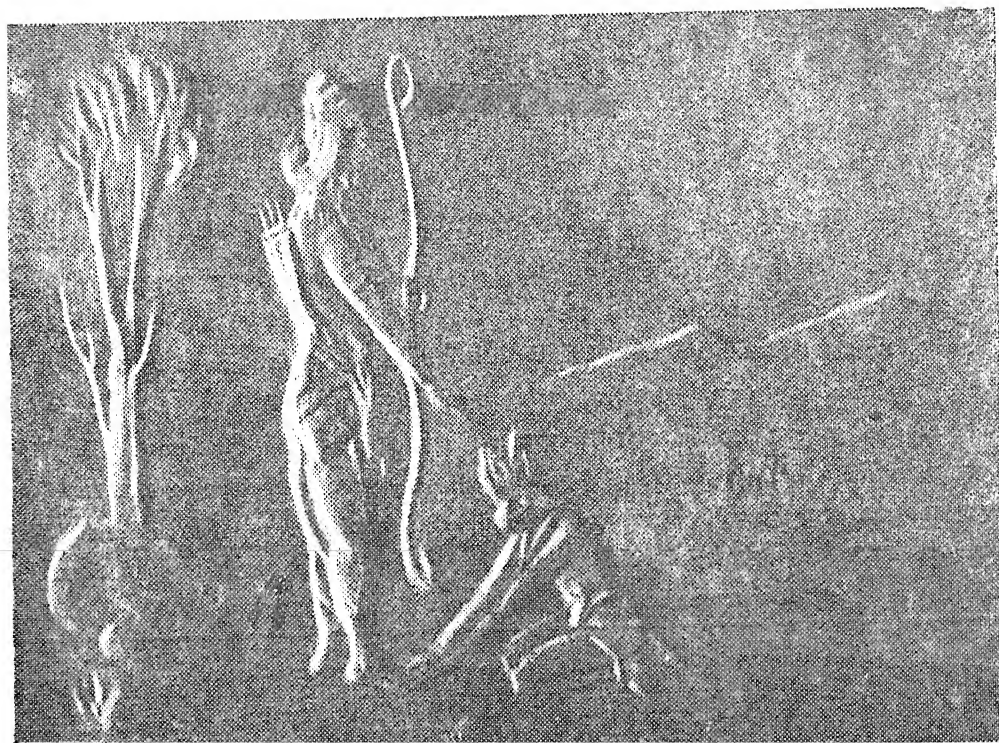
DADHIMUKHA'S VERSION OF MADHUVANA DESTRUCTION



61st SARGA

Angada and Vanaras were happy at the learned advice of Jambavantha. They were flying with Hanuma in the fore front with renewed vigour at a much faster pace in their enthusiasm to inform Rama and Sugreeva as early as possible of the good news of having found Sita. On the way they saw Madhuvana, a garden of Sugreeva full of trees with fruits and honey. In their jubilient mood, on seeing it, they wanted to eat the fruits and drink Honey. All the vanaras requested Angada, who consulted elders and gave permission as the prince. Vanaras entered the forest. They began roaming freely as they liked and ate the fruits. They began damaging the trees in their gay mood. On seeing it Madhuvana guard, Dadhimukha, a monkey and employed by Sugreeva for the purpose, objected the vanaras. But the vanaras disregarded and began destroying the Madhuvana as they please in gay abandon.

VANARAS' RETURN FLIGHT



6th SARGA

Dadhimukha's followers objected the vanaras once again resulting in all altercation. Vanaras having taken the consent of Hanuma, beat the followers of Dadhimukha. Dadhimukha fully prepared came for a fight. Angada, who was fully drunk, himself fought with Dadhimukha and insulted him. Dadhimukha was furious. He flew with his followers and arrived at Rishyamuka where Rama, Lakshmana and Sugreeva were staying. He fell on the feet of Sugreeva.

HANUMA BOW DOWN TO RAMA



63rd SARGA

Sugreeva saw Dadhimukha and enquired the reason for his grief. Dadhimukha repored the destruction of Madhuvana by Angada and other vanaras. Then Sugreeva felt immensely happy and said to Rama and Lakshmana, "They would not return without finding Sita. Even if they did, they do not dare destroying Madhauvana. I, there fore, deduce that they found Sita and are on their return to this place." hetold dadimukha "you go and tell them that I have excused them for the mischief. Ask all of them to return immedi ately. You go and send them at once."

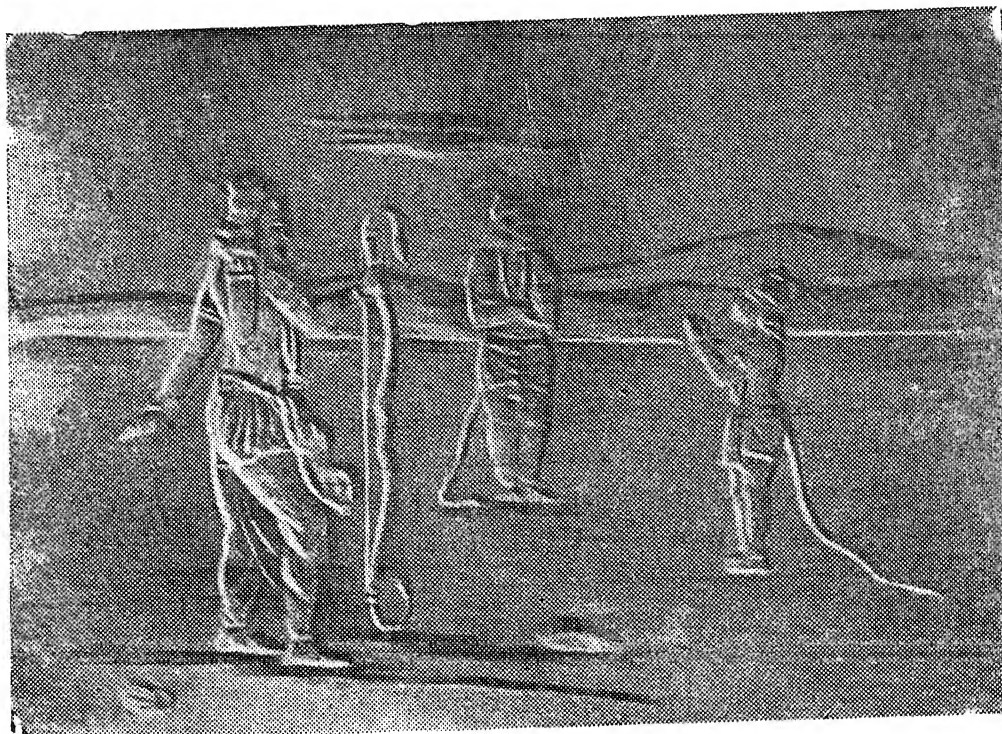
"I FOUND SITA" SAYS HANUMA



64TH SARGA

Dadhimukha, bowed with his followers to Rama, Lakshmana and Sugreeva and flew fast to Madhuvana, He told Angada "Sugreeva wants you to return immediately." On hearing the message all the vanaras flew to sky with great speed, with Hanuma and Angada in forefront. On Rishyamuka, Rama, Lakshmana and Sugreeva sat. Sugreeva said "Rama ! Our people are returning successfully. Hanuma, Jambavantha and Angada went on this mission. It cannot but be successful." Then all the vanaras arrived with great fanfare, noises and roars of joy. Hanuma said "Rama ! I saw Sita in Lanka." Rama's joy knew no bounds.

PRESENTING THE CHUDAMANI



65th SARGA

A hilarious mood prevailed over there, with joy and entusiasum. All the vanaras began narrating about the suffering of Sita. Then Rama said "Let one talk and tell what all had happened." Then the vanaras asked Hanuma to tell. Hannma thought of Sita bowed in reverence and narrated what all had happened i.e., crossing the ocean, entering Lanka, searching Sita and finding out Sita. He narrated how Sita was seen in Ashoka Garden with dirty clothes and in sorrowful state among the RakshasAwomen. He also said that she wanted to see Rama very soon. He also reminded Rama of the crow incident, vermilion incident and submitted Sita's Chudamani. He also reported all Sita's words and told Rama that Sita wanted them to relieve her of the suffering at the earliest. Therefore they must move faster.

LAKSHMANA & SUGRIVA APPRECIATING HANUMA



66th SARGA

Rama, recalling what all Hanuma said on seeing 'Chudamani' he burst into a spate of sorrow. Lakshmana too was gloomy. Rama kept Chudamani on his heart and began lamenting. He saw Sugreeva and said "Sugreeva ! my uncle Janaka had given this to Sita in our wedding as presentation. This was born in water. Indra had given it to Janaka at the time of Janaka performing a Yagna (a sacred ritual to satisfy gods) I see my father 'Dasaradha'. my uncle Janaka in this Jewel and I remember those days. On seeing this, I have also a feeling as if I had seen Sita." He turned to Lakshmana and said "Lakshmana ! I could see the Jewel. But I could not see your sister-in-law. How can I live without her?", Then he told Hanuma "Oh ! Hanuma ! You please do one thing. You please take me to the place where she is kept. Please tell her words once more I shall recite them and try to live". thus Rama lamented.



67th SARGA

Rama again in a grievous mood asked Hanuma to narrate about Sita. Hanuma once again reminded the crow incident, the vermilion incident and all the message Sita had given. He had also narrated how he consoled Sita assuring his return soon with Rama and others to relieve her suffering. He also said how she had taken out Chudamani from her head and how she requested for an early return and how she blessed him and sent him.

HANUMA REPEATS SITA'S MESSAGE



68th SARGA

Hanuma told Sita's words to Rama umpteen times to soothe him and console him. He told Rama that he said to Sita thus "Vanaras will definitely cross the ocean and come to Lanka. They are very capable and equal to me in all respects. I shall get Rama and Lakshmana on my shoulders. You please be brave." Rama was very happy and said "Hanuma! you have done the greatest service. I cannot reciprocate the same. However, I shall give you this only. Please come to my embrace." Rama invited Hanuma and embraced him as a token of his appreciation.

RAMA EMBRACES HANUMA



131st SARGA

Proclamation and Crowning Ceremony

Rama after killing Ravana and the other Rakshas boarded Pusphaka with Sita, Lakshmana, entire Vanara army, Vibhishana and other well wishers to return to Ayodhya as the Fourteen years period of exile was ended by then. Earlier Hanuma had flown to Nandigrama, where Bharata, the step brother of Rama was staying awaiting Rama's return. Bharata accompanied by Friends relatives and citizens bowed in reverence and received Rama and others with utmost affection.

Rama "Oh! Brother, you respected my mother. At her behest you had relenquished the crown and went to forest and lived there for 14 years you directed me to rule the kingdom in your exile. I surrender the kingdom to you. Please accept. I am neither competent nor to hold this burden of ruling this Vast kingdom.

Vashistha Maharshi, the Guru of Ishwaku dynasty received Rama with auspicious Vedic hymns Rama followed by Sita visited his mother and step mothers, paid his respects.

HANUMA PRAYS

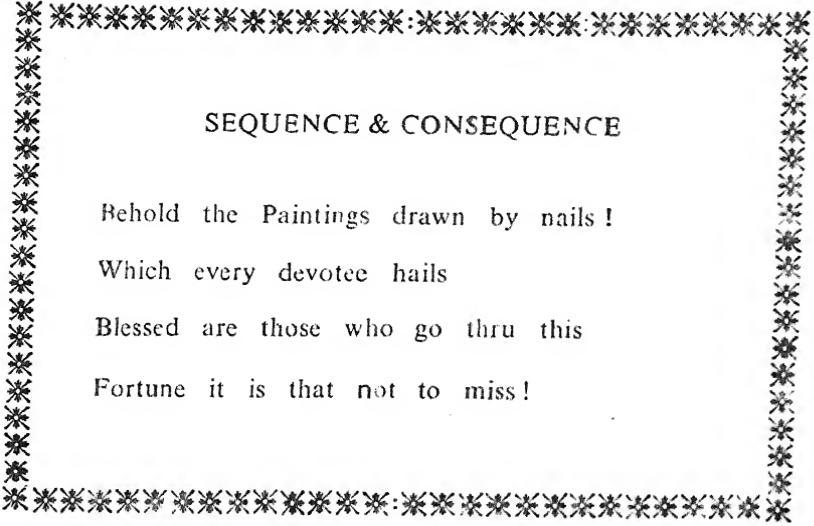


Vashistha Maharshi seated Rama and Sita on the throne and adorned Rama with the crown Performing the rituals. All the gods, goddesses. Saints and all others witnessed the ceremony and showered petals amidst scenes of Jubilation.

Rama had taken a costliest Pearl bead, gave it to Sita and said "You present this to any one who in your opinion is full of vigour, Valour, brilliance all the time and whose might you appreciate the most." Sita presented the pearl bead to Hanuma as a token of her appreciation.

After the ceremony, Vibhishana accompanied by his followers went to Lanka. Sugreeva went to Kishkindha with Vanara army. Rama Proclaimed Bharata as the Prince.

Rama Ruled the country ably with Justice love and affection to the people. He was considered to be the best of the kings.



SEQUENCE & CONSEQUENCE

Behold the Paintings drawn by nails !

Which every devotee hails

Blessed are those who go thru this

Fortune it is that not to miss !

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